

THE OLD TESTAMENT
THE MOFFATT TRANSLATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT


A NEW TRANSLATION BY

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D.D., D.LITT., M.A. (OXON.)

VOLUME II
JOB—MALACHI

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A faint, circular library stamp is visible in the bottom right corner of the page. The text within the stamp is partially legible and appears to read "HUC-3" and "NEW YORK".

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THE OLD TESTAMENT. A NEW TRANSLATION. VOL. II.

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TO
THE VERY REV.
SIR GEORGE ADAM SMITH
FROM WHOM I LEARNED HEBREW
AND MORE THAN HEBREW

PREFACE

THE aim I have endeavoured to keep before my mind in making this translation has been to present the books of the Old Testament in effective and intelligible English. No translation of an ancient classic can be quite intelligible, it is true, unless the reader is sufficiently acquainted with its environment to understand some of its flying allusions and characteristic metaphors. But something may be done and, I am convinced, ought to be done at the present day to offer the unlearned a transcript of the Old Testament literature as it lies in the light thrown upon it by modern research. The Old Testament is not always what it seems to those who read it in the great prose of the English version or indeed in any of the conventional versions. What it is may be partly suggested by a new rendering such as the following pages present. It is a fresh translation of the original, not a revision of any English version. A real translation is in the main an interpretation, and an interpretation may of course be novel without being either welcome or persuasive; its effectiveness depends largely upon the extent to which the interpreter has been able to see the original and to convey his impressions of what he has seen, although it also depends to some extent upon the willingness of the reader to detach his mind for the time being from time-honoured associations. But if the methods I have employed are at all successful, the result may well be that the literature of the Old Testament becomes at any rate a new book for some readers here and there, more interesting perhaps and less obscure.

Dr. Johnson once observed that the first excellence of a translator lay in producing pages "such as may be read with pleasure by those who do not know the original." But there is pleasure and pleasure, in this kind of work as in any other. The ideal of a translator is to let his readers enjoy part of the pleasure which the original once afforded to its audience in some far-off century, and I venture to hope that this translation may occasionally give such a pleasure, in some degree, to those who cannot consult the Hebrew scriptures. To the best of my ability I have tried to be exact and idiomatic. Only those who have made the attempt know how hard it is to translate any part of the Old Testament adequately, much more to undertake the whole of it singlehanded.

But I feel sure that any serious effort, however imperfect it may be, to render the Old Testament into the English of our day will be welcomed by the increasing number of those who desire to understand as precisely as possible what any passage meant, by way of pleasure and profit, for the people to whom it was originally addressed.

I

The primary difficulties are started by the text. The traditional or "massoretic" text is often desperately corrupt. At a number of places, for example in Genesis xxxv. 22, Judges iii. 1, 1 Samuel xiii. 1, Jeremiah iii. 1, and Zechariah vi. 15, it is broken or defective, though our English version usually conceals this. At other points it is in such disrepair that no conjecture can heal it. Such passages I have been content to leave with three dots (. . .). A longer line of dots, in the poetical books, means that a line of the original text is either missing or too defective to be restored with any certainty. Few scholars will judge that these marks occur too often; indeed, some may think that they ought to have been used more frequently. But wherever I was satisfied with some correction or conjecture which at least made tolerable sense, I preferred to adopt it. When the choice lay between a guess or a gap, I inclined to prefer the former, feeling that the ordinary reader, for whom this version is designed, would have a proper dislike of gaps. I can assure him that they have been reduced almost to a bare minimum, and that wherever one does occur it means that the translator could not candidly patch up the text, even by using any of the patches devised by his predecessors.

Since nearly every page contains some emendation of the traditional text in the interests of accuracy and point, it has been impossible to annotate them. Scholars and students will recognize them readily, and I must ask the general reader to believe that none has been admitted except upon what the translator regards as sufficient evidence. This may seem to involve a large act of faith. But very few, apart from those who have done some first-hand work upon the subject, realize how uncertain and precarious is the traditional text of some books in the Old Testament. It would have swollen the book inordinately to have justified either the readings or, for the matter of that, the renderings, one after another. Besides, to do this would be, in the words of the translators of the Authorized Version, to "weary the unlearned, who need not know so much, and trouble the learned, who know it already."

II

Even when a more or less sound text has been secured, it has to be rendered into adequate English, and here the common problem of translators is doubled, for one is never quite sure how far the influence and associations of the Authorized Version have acclimatized certain Oriental expressions in our language. The Old Testament is a collection of Oriental books, Oriental in thought as well as in form. No translation can hope to be faithful and forcible unless it manages to preserve as much as possible of the Oriental flavour of the original texts, and yet there must also be an effort to bring this far-off world nearer to the modern mind, an effort which may occasionally forbid the translator to be literal.

Again, several of the most characteristic Hebrew terms, religious, social, and psychological, have no English equivalent which exactly corresponds to their original meaning. Something is dropped as they are passed from Hebrew into English. Even the rhythm of the prose as well as of the verse cannot be carried over into our modern language without a certain amount of alteration, if the version is not to be pedantic. Furthermore, the habit of playing upon words, acrostics, euphemisms, paranomasia, and verbal tropes of this kind, baffle the translator, who may be reduced to the desperate expedient of suggesting within brackets (as, for example, at Micah i. 10, 11), the point of some allusion or piece of popular etymology.

One crucial instance of the difficulty offered by a Hebrew term lies in the primitive name given at the exodus by the Hebrews to their God. Strictly speaking, this ought to be rendered "Yah-weh," which is familiar to modern readers in the erroneous form of "Jehovah." Were this version intended for students of the original, there would be no hesitation whatever in printing "Yah-weh." But almost at the last moment I have decided with some reluctance to follow the practice of the French scholars and of Matthew Arnold (though not exactly for his reasons) who translate this name by "The Eternal," except in an enigmatic title like "the Lord of hosts." There is a distinct loss in this, I fully admit; to drop the racial, archaic term is to miss something of what it meant for the Hebrew nation. On the other hand there is a certain gain, especially in a book of lyrics like the psalter, and I trust that in a popular version like the present my choice will be understood even by those who may be slow to pardon it.

III

The books of the Old Testament are, for the most part, books which have been either made out of books, or edited more or less

drastically by later hands. Sometimes a book has passed through both of these processes. Now, I have avoided complicating the translation with unæsthetic marks of sources; but, particularly in the earlier historical books, I have been obliged as an honest translator to distinguish one or two of the strata which have been fused and confused in the traditional text. This has been done only when I found it to be absolutely necessary, for example, to disentangle two separate forms or fragments of a story. Thus, it is known to most people that the first five or six books of the Old Testament were compiled from several sources. Two of these require specially to be separated here and there; one is a Judahite narrative (J), the other is a narrative originating in Northern Israel (E), neither compiled earlier than the ninth century B.C. Wherever it has been necessary to mark an extract from the former, it is printed in italics, while any material from the latter appears within single square brackets ([]). When a passage occurs both in italics and also within these brackets, as for example in the case of Exodus iv. 13-17, this denotes an extract from the combined edition of J and E, made a century or two after they had begun to circulate separately. All the rest of the text I have left in ordinary type, without making any attempt to indicate the various sources from which it has been drawn. The only other mark which requires a word of explanation is the double square brackets ([[]]). This denotes, throughout the entire Old Testament, passages which are either editorial additions or later interpolations.

Occasionally, as in Job ii. 11 and Daniel i. 7, I have marked the correct pronunciation of a proper name.

The books are printed, to facilitate reference, in the order of the English Bible.

JAMES MOFFATT.

GLASGOW, *January, 1925.*

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THE OLD TESTAMENT

JOB

- 1 There was a man once in the land of Uz, whose name was Eyob, a blameless and an upright man; God he revered and he shunned evil. He had seven sons and three daughters; also in live-stock he possessed seven thousand sheep and goats, three thousand camels, five hundred pair of oxen, and five hundred she-asses, besides a very large household; so that this man was the greatest man in all the East. His sons used to go and feast together, each acting in turn as host for the day; they would also invite their three sisters to eat and drink along with them. When each week of feasting was over, Eyob sent for them and had them purified, rising early and offering a burnt sacrifice for each of them; "It may be," said Eyob, "that my sons have sinned by cursing God in their hearts." Eyob did this without fail.
- 6 One day the angels came to present themselves before the Eternal, and among them the Adversary. "Where have you been?" said the Eternal to the Adversary; and the Adversary answered, "Roaming here and there, roving about the earth."
- 8 Then the Eternal said to the Adversary, "Have you noticed that there is no one like my servant Eyob on earth, a blameless and an upright man, who reverences God and shuns evil?"
- 9 The Adversary answered, "But is it for nothing that Eyob reverences God? Have you not hedged him safely in, his house and all he has? You have prospered him in his business, and his flocks are teeming on the land. Only put out your hand, 11 touch whatever he possesses, and see if he will not curse you to your face!" Then said the 12 Eternal to the Adversary, "There! I leave all he has within your power; but lay no hand upon the man himself." So off went the Adversary from the presence of the Eternal.
- One day, when his sons and 13 daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their eldest brother, a messenger 14 came and told Eyob: "The oxen were ploughing, the asses were grazing beside them, when 15 the Arabs made a foray and carried them off; the servants they cut down, and I alone escaped to tell you." He was 16 still speaking when another came, saying, "Lightning fell from the sky and burned up sheep and goats and shepherds to a cinder; I alone escaped to tell you." He was still speaking 17 when another came, saying, "The Chaldeans formed three parties for a raid upon the camels; they carried them off, the servants they cut down, and I alone escaped to tell you." He was still speaking when 18 another came, saying, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their eldest brother, when a whirlwind swept across 19 the desert and struck the four corners of the house, till it fell upon the young folk; they are dead, and I alone escaped to tell you." Then Eyob rose, 20 tore his tunic, shaved his head, and dropped upon the ground in humble worship, crying, "Naked I came from my moth- 21

er's womb, and naked I must return: the Eternal gave, the Eternal has taken—blessed be the Eternal!" In all this Eyob did not sin, nor did he give offense to God.

2 One day the angels again came to present themselves before the Eternal, and among them the Adversary. "Where have you been?" said the Eternal to the Adversary; and the Adversary answered, "Roaming here and there, roving about the earth." Then the Eternal said to the Adversary, "Have you noticed that there is no one like my servant Eyob on earth, a blameless and an upright man, who reverences God and shuns evil? He still holds to his loyalty: it was idle of you to entice me to undo him." But the Adversary answered, "He has saved his own skin! A man will let all he has go, to preserve his life. Only put out your hand, touch his flesh and bones, and see if he will not curse you to your face!" So the Eternal said to the Adversary, "There! he is in your power; only, spare his life." Off went the Adversary from the Eternal's presence and he smote Eyob with painful ulcers from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head, till Eyob took a potsherd to scrape himself. As he sat among the ashes, his wife said to him, "Still holding to your loyalty? Curse God, though you die for it!" But he told her, "You are talking like an impious fool. Are we to take good from God's hand, and not evil too?" In all this Eyob sinned not with his lips.

11 Now when Eyob's three friends heard of all the trouble that had befallen him, they

came, each from his own home, Eliphaz from Teman, Bildad from Shuah, and Zophar from Ma'in; they arranged to go and condole with him, to comfort him. But when they caught sight of him at a distance and could not recognize him, they wept aloud; every man of them tore his tunic and flung dust on his head. For seven days and seven nights they sat beside him on the ground; none said a word to him, for they saw how terrible was his anguish.

Then Eyob opened his mouth and cursed his birthday. Eyob began:

"Perish the day when I was born, the night that said, 'It is a boy!'

Utter darkness may it be, 4a
longing for light and finding none! 9b

May God on high ignore it, 4b
till not a ray illumines it!

May darkness and gloom reclaim it, 5
may clouds rest on it,
may all eclipses scare it,
may the deep dark seize that night! 6

Be it severed from the days of the year,
kept out of the count of the months!

Aye, barren be that night, 7
bereft of any joyous cry!

May the enchanters curse that day, 8
enchanters who can rouse the Dragon!

Dark be its stars of the dawn, 9
may it never see the eyelids of the morning!

For it did not close the womb on me, and hid not misery from mine eyes.

Why died I not when I was born, 11
why did I not perish at birth,

16 why was I not buried like an
 abortion,
 like still-born babes that
 never see the daylight?
 12 Why were there knees to wel-
 come me,
 why were there breasts to
 suck?
 13 I would have been lying still,
 I would have slept in peace,
 14 with kings and statesmen of the
 world
 who had built pyramids for
 themselves,
 15 with princes, rich in gold,
 who had filled palaces with
 silver.
 17 There villains cease to rage,
 and their victims are at
 peace—
 18 captives lying quiet together,
 deaf to the slavedriver's
 shout;
 19 high and low are there alike,
 the slave is free from his mas-
 ter.
 20 Why does God give sufferers
 light, and life to men in bitter
 despair,
 21 who long for death, and long
 in vain,
 who dig for it more than
 buried treasure,
 22 who would rejoice to lie covered
 with stones,
 glad if they could but reach
 the grave?
 23 Why does God give light to a
 man at his wits' end,
 a man whom he has hemmed
 in?
 24 Sighs are my daily bread,
 groans pour from me like
 water;
 25 whate'er I fear befalls me,
 and what I dread draws on
 me;
 26 I get no peace, I get no rest,
 I get no ease, only attacks of
 agony."

Then Eliphaz the Temanite 4
 replied:
 "Would you resent it, if we 2
 dared to speak?—
 though who can keep from
 speaking?
 You have yourself set many 3
 right,
 and put strength into feeble
 souls;
 your words have kept men on 4
 their feet,
 and you have nerved the
 weak-kneed.
 But now that your own turn 5
 has come, you droop;
 it touches you close, and you
 collapse.
 Let your religion reassure you; 6
 your blameless life, let that
 encourage you!
 Think now, what guiltless man 7
 has ever perished?
 When have the just ever been
 swept away?
 Men, as I see it, reap the evil 8
 that they plough,
 the trouble that they sow;
 under God's blast they perish, 9
 at the breath of his anger
 they vanish—
 roaring lions, hoarse with fury, 10
 they have their fierce fangs
 shattered,
 lions perishing for lack of prey, 11
 cubs of a lioness, they are
 scattered!
 Once a word came stealing to me, 12
 the whisper of it reached my
 ear.
 When men fall into trances in 13
 the night,
 I lay wrapt in my visions,
 terror and trembling seized me, 14
 till my limbs all shuddered;
 a spirit glided before me, 15
 till my hair bristled—
 there it stood, 16
 I could not make it out,
 this form before mine eyes,

- but in the hush I heard it
murmuring:
- 17 'Before God can a mortal man
be just?
Can man be pure before his
Maker?'
- 18 Even on his heavenly servants
he cannot rely,
his very angels he convicts of
error;
- 19 and what of those in houses
made of clay,
with dust for their founda-
tions,
frail as a moth,
20 crushed in a single day,
perishing utterly, unnoticed?
- 21 God blows on them, they
wither up,
they die, and die in ignorance
of him.
- 5 You would appeal? will anyone
respond?
what angel would you turn
to?
- 2 Passion like that is futile, fatal;
it is death for a fool to flame
out against God.
- 3 A senseless man may strike
root—I have seen it—
but suddenly his branches rot;
- 4 his children are left in peril,
defrauded—none to defend
them;
- 5 hungry men consume their
crops,
thirsty men drink up their
milk.
- 6 [[Suffering? it springs not from
the soil,
trouble grows not from the
ground;
- 7 man brings trouble on himself
as surely as the sparks fly up.]]
- 8 Were I in your place, I would
turn to God,
and before God lay my case,
9 who does great things beyond
our ken,
- marvels beyond all reckoning;
he pours rain on the ploughland, 10
and he floods the fields;
he sets the lowly on a height, 11
and helps the forlorn to vic-
tory;
he foils the plots of wily men, 12
till they win no success;
he snares the cunning with their 13
own guile,
baffling the schemes of shifty
men,
till they encounter darkness in 14
the daytime,
groping at noon as if it were
the night;
he saves the helpless from the 15
sword,
saves poor souls from the ty-
rant's clutch;
and so the hapless have some 16
hope,
and wrongdoers are silenced.
- Ah, happy he whom God is 17
chastening!
Spurn not the discipline of the
Almighty;
he binds up where he wounds, 18
he hurts and heals;
in six afflictions he will save you, 19
no harm shall come to you in
seven;
in famine he will rescue you 20
from death,
in war from the stroke of the
sword;
you shall be hidden from the 21
scourge of plague,
you need not be afraid of sud-
den death;
at sudden death and famine you 22
can laugh,
nor need you fear wild beasts;
the very animals shall be your 23
allies,
and the wild beasts your
friends;
you can be sure your house is safe, 24
you shall miss nothing when
you go over your flock;

25 you shall find you have many
 children,
 offspring in number like the
 blades of grass;
 26 you shall come to the grave in a
 ripe age,
 like a sheaf borne home in
 harvest.
 27 This is the truth we have found
 to be true:
 this we have heard: now, lay
 it to heart."

6 Eyob answered:
 2 "Passion"? Compare my pas-
 sion of despair
 with the full weight of my
 calamity!—
 3 'tis heavier than the sands of
 the sea.
 That makes my words so wild.
 4 The Almighty has buried his
 arrows deep in me,
 and their poison stings my
 soul;
 the terrors of God trouble me,
 7a my soul refuses to rest.
 5 Does a wild-ass bray when he
 has grass?
 Does an ox low at his fodder?
 6 Can one eat insipid food and
 saltless?
 Has the white of an egg any
 flavour?
 8 Would that I had my desire!
 Would that God granted my
 longing!
 9 Would that God were pleased to
 crush me,
 to let his hand snap off my
 thread of life!
 10 That would be some comfort to
 me;
 yes, I would exult in its un-
 sparing pain.
 11 What strength have I to hold out?
 What is before me, that I
 should be patient?
 12 Is my strength equal to the
 strength of stones,
 is my flesh made of bronze?

No, there is no help, none; 13
 and all aid has abandoned me.

 Friends should be kind to a de- 14
 spairing man,
 or he will give up faith in the
 Almighty;
 but my friends disappoint me 15
 like a stream,
 like mountain brooks that
 overflow their banks,
 swollen and dark with ice, 16
 with melting snow,
 but vanishing when they are 17
 scorched,
 and disappearing in the sum-
 mer's glow;
 caravans turn to them, then 18
 turn away,
 take to the desert and then
 perish;
 caravans from Tema look for 19
 water,
 traders from Arabia are in
 hopes,
 but their hopes are disap- 20
 pointed,
 they arrive and they are dis-
 concerted:
 as I am over you— 21
 you and your fears about my
 terrible fate!

 Did I ask you for a present, 22
 or to pay bribes on my ac-
 count,
 to rescue me from enemies, 23
 to ransom me from bandits?
 (Ransom? you fall upon a 27
 blameless man,
 you would make capital out
 of a friend!)
 Show me where I have gone 24
 wrong;
 teach me—then I'll hold my
 tongue.
 Honest reproof, how sweet it is! 25
 But when you argue, what do
 you reprove?
 Words? is it words you mean to 26
 censure,

- the whirling words of a man
desperate?
- 28 Come, look at me;
I swear I will not lie to your
face.
- 29 Do me no longer an injustice;
give over, no guilt has been
proved against me.
- 30 Am I too blunted to be sure of
that?
Is there no sense of wrong left
within me?
- 7 Has not man a hard service
upon earth?
Is not his life like a labourer's,
2 like a slave who pants for the
evening shadow,
like a labourer longing for his
wages?
- 3 I am forced to live empty
months,
and nights of misery are
allotted me;
- 4 I lie down thinking, 'When will
it be day?'
and till the day dawns I toss
to and fro.
- 5 Worms and a dry crust cover all
my flesh;
my skin grows hard, then
breaks.
- 6 My days go swifter than a
weaver's shuttle,
and reach a hopeless end.
- 7 O God, my life is but a breath,
remember;
remember, I will never thrive
again;
- 8 [[Those who see me shall never
again see me;
I shall be gone, under thy
very gaze.]]
- 9 As a cloud dissolves and disap-
pears,
so he who passes down to
death rises no more;
- 10 never shall he come home
again,
never shall his place know him
any more.
- Well, I will restrain myself no 11
longer;
I will speak out, so bitter is
my soul.
- Am I the sea, am I the Dragon, 12
to be watched narrowly by
thee?
- When I think my bed will ease 13
me,
my couch will soothe my
complaint,
then thou scarest me with 14
dreams,
thou appallest me with night-
mares,
till I would fain be strangled, 15
I would prefer death to my
pains.
- I would not live for ever; 16
let me alone, my life is frail
and fleeting!
- What is man, that thou dost 17
make so much of him,
fixing thy mind on him,
punishing him every morning, 18
testing him moment by mo-
ment?
- Wilt thou never take thine eye 19
off me,
or leave me for a second?
- If I sin, what harm is that to 20
thee,
O thou Spy upon mankind?
Why must thou always find me
in thy way,
why vex thyself with me?
Why not forgive my guilt, 21
why not let my sin pass?
Soon, soon have I to lie down in
the dust;
and when thou searchest for
me, I shall be no more."
- Then Bildad the Shuhite an- 8
swered:
"How long will you talk like 2
that,
with wild and whirling words?
Does God pervert justice? 3
Does the Almighty wrest
what is right?

- 4 Though your children sinned
 against him,
 and he left them to their fate,
 5 seek God out, for yourself,
 entreat the favour of the Al-
 mighty,
 6 and if you are pure and upright,
 he will answer your prayer
 indeed,
 and prosper your godly
 home;
 7 small though your start may be,
 he will enrich you amply in
 the end.
- 8 Question men of bygone ages,
 attend to what our fathers
 found
 9 (for what know we, mere men
 of yesterday?—
 our days on earth are but a
 flitting shadow);
 10 will they not tell you what they
 know,
 and teach you in their wis-
 dom this—
 11 'Can the papyrus grow up with-
 out mud?
 can the reed flourish without
 water?
 12 No, all uncut, all fresh and green,
 it withers before any plant.
 13 So end all who care not for God,
 so perishes the hope of an un-
 godly man;
 14 his confidence is like a gossamer
 thread,
 his trust no stronger than a
 spider's web;
 15 he relies upon his house, and it
 gives way,
 he clutches it, and yet it will
 not stay.
 16 He is a green plant, growing in
 the sun,
 with shoots all over the
 garden,
 17 with roots twined round the
 spring,
 thriving inside the green-
 house;
- yet, once it is destroyed, 18
 its place disowns it utterly.
 So ends a godless man, 19
 and others rise up in his
 stead.
 Ah, God will never banish a 20
 blameless man,
 never will he uphold wrong-
 doers;
 he will yet fill your lips with 21
 laughter,
 and your mouth with a shout
 of joy;
 your foes shall be covered with 22
 confusion,
 and the tents of evil men shall
 disappear."
- Then Eyob replied: 9
 "Yes, it is true; I know it; 2
 but how is man to get his
 rights from God?
 Even if God chose to argue, 3
 you could not answer one of
 his thousand questions.
 He is so wise, so mighty— 4
 who ever defied him without
 scathe?
 Mountains he moves, and never 5
 notices it
 when he upsets them in his
 anger;
 he shakes the earth out of its 6
 place,
 till its pillars are a-trembling;
 he can forbid the sun to shine; 7
 he can seal up the stars;
 he spreads the heavens out, all 8
 unhelped,
 and stalks along their heights;
 he makes Orion and the Pleia- 9
 des,
 the constellations of the
 south;
 he does great things beyond our 10
 ken,
 marvels beyond all reckoning.
 He passes me—I cannot see 11
 him;
 he sweeps on—I behold him
 not;

- 12 he pounces—who can stop him?
Who dare ask him, 'What do
you mean'?
- 13 God will let his wrath have way;
he made the very allies of the
Dragon quail.
- 14 How then could I answer him,
what words could I pick to
dispute with him?
- 15 I would not answer him, though
I were in the right,
but beg my adversary to have
pity.
- 16 Were I to summon him, he
would not answer;
I cannot believe that he would
listen.
- 17 For he storms and strikes at me
with many a wanton blow;
- 18 he will not let me draw my
breath,
but fills me full of bitter woe.
- 19 Is it a trial of strength? Well,
there he stands!
Is it a lawsuit? Who then
can arraign him?
- 20 His lips would condemn me,
were I in the right;
and were I blameless, he
would prove me wrong!
- 21 But I am blameless!—never
mind,
I care not about life; what
matters it?
- 22 He destroys blameless and bad
men alike.
- 24c He does not? well, who is it,
then?
- 23 When he is scourging us with
sudden death,
he mocks at the despair of
innocent men.
- 24 The world is handed over to the
wicked;
he makes the rulers of men
blind to justice!
- 25 My days go quicker than a
courier,
they fly without one happy
ray,
- They flit as rapidly as skiffs, 26
as eagles swooping on their
prey.
- If I think to forget about my 27
anguish,
to cheer up and cast care aside,
I am in dread still of my pain— 28
I know thou wilt not let me
off.
- I am bound to be held guilty; 29
why should I struggle, then,
in vain?
- Were I to wash myself with 30
snow,
and make my hands ever so
white and clean,
thou would'st plunge me in the 31
mud,
till my very friends would
loathe me.
- He is not a man like me, 32
that we might meet for a fair
trial
(O for some umpire over both of 33
us,
who might decide our case!)
- Let him but lift his rod from me, 34
let him not overawe me with
his terror!
- Then I would not be afraid to 35
speak—
for inwardly I have no guilty
fears.
- I am sick, sick of life; 10
I shall give rein to my com-
plaint of him.
- 'Do not condemn me,' I will say 2
to God,
'but tell me what thou hast
against me.
- Does it befit thee to be hard on 3
men,
to disdain what thou hast
made?
- Are thine eyes only mortal, 4
is thy sight no more than
man's,
are thy days short as a man's 5
days,
are thy years like a man's life,

6 that thou huntest out my guilt
and searchest thus for sin in
me,
7 knowing all the while that I am
innocent,
knowing there is no perfidy in
me?
8 Thy hands shaped and moulded
me;
and wilt thou turn round to
destroy me?
9 Remember how thou madest
me like clay,
and wilt thou grind me into
dust again?
10 Didst thou not pour me out like
milk
and curdle me like cheese,
11 clothe me with skin and flesh,
and knit me with bones and
sinews?
12 Thou didst bestow upon me life
and love,
my spirit was in thy charge
and care.
13 And all the while this was thy
dark design!—
plotting this, well I know it,
against me!
14 If I do wrong, thou markest me,
and wilt not acquit me of
iniquity.
15 If I am guilty, woe betide me!
If I am guiltless, I must hang
my head!
16 For, if I dare to raise it, thou
art after me like a lion,
so marvellously fresh in thine
attacks,
17 so keen to put me in the wrong,
so eager in thy rising wrath!
18 Why didst thou ever take me
from the womb?
Why could I not have died
there in the dark?
19 Then I would be as though I had
not been,
borne from the womb straight
to the tomb.
20 My days are few! let me alone
awhile,

that I may have life bright
with a brief smile,
before I leave it to return no 21
more,
before I pass to darkness and
to gloom,
to a land dark as midnight, 22
utter chaos,
with no light but the shades
of death.' ”

Then Zophar the Minæan 11
replied:

“Is a crowd of words to go 2
unanswered?

Is a glib talker to carry the
day?

Are men to be silenced by your 3
babbling?

Is no one to expose your blas-
phemies?

You say, ‘My life is pure, 4
I am clean in thy sight’?

If God would only speak, 5
and open his lips against you,
unfolding all the mysteries of 6
his wisdom,

the marvel of its methods,
then you would learn that God
does not remember all your
guilt against you!

Can you discover the deep 7
things of God?

can you reach the Almighty’s
range of wisdom?

It is higher than heaven—how 8
can you match it?

deeper than death—how can
you measure it?

Its scope is vaster than the 9
earth,

and wider than the sea.

If he will imprison and arraign, 10
who, as you say, can stop
him?

Well does he know who are 11
worthless;

he sees guilt and he marks it,
training a worthless creature 12
to be wise,

till a wild colt of a man is tamed.

13 If you will turn your mind to God

and stretch your hands to him,

14 if sin you banish from your life,
and evil from your house,

15 then you can face him unashamed,

you may be firm and fearless;

16 you shall forget about your misery,

you shall remember it no more
than floods gone by;

17 your life will rise more radiant
than the noon,

your shadows will be like the
dawn;

18 you can have hope and feel
secure,

you can look round you and
lie down in safety,

19 lie down with no one to alarm
you;

nay, many will be suing for
your favour.

20 But evil men will strain their
eyes in vain,

no chance of an escape is left
to them,

their one hope is to breathe
their last."

12 Then Eyob answered:

2 "No doubt you are the men who
know!

Wisdom will die with you!

3 But I have brains as well as
you;

why, anyone knows all you
say.

4 [[A man whose prayers were an-
swered once by God,

is now derided by his
friends!—

a just, a blameless man, de-
rided!

5 Men at ease sneer at the unfor-
tunate;

when a man falters, there are
blows for him.

It is the plunderers who live 6
unharméd,

those who provoke God are
secure,

who make a god of their own
power.]]

Ask the very beasts, and they 7
will teach you;

ask the wild birds—they will
tell you;

crawling creatures will instruct 8
you,

the fish in the sea will inform
you:

for which of them all knows not 9
that this is the Eternal's way,

in whose control lies every living 10
soul,

and the whole life of man?

Does not a man's mind test 11
what he is told,

as the palate tastes food for
itself?

Wisdom, you argue, lies with 12
aged men,

a long life means intelligence?

Nay, wisdom and authority 13
belong to God;

strength and knowledge are
his own.

He breaks down: there is no 14
rebuilding;

imprisons: there is no re-
lease.

He holds the rain back: earth 15
is dry;

he lets it loose: the land is
overwhelmed.

Power and providence belong 16
to him:

he is behind deceiver and
deceived,

he strips statesmen of their wits, 17
and makes a fool of councillors,

he dismantles royalty, 18
and drives kings off in chains,

he marches priests away bare- 19
foot,

and overthrows their ancient
orders,

- 20 orators he renders speechless,
 aged men lose their judgment,
 21 he pours contempt on lords,
 and he unnerves the powerful,
 22 dark policies he brings to light,
 and shady mysteries he
 exposes;
 23 he will extend a nation, to undo
 it,
 he will enlarge a nation, then
 enslave it;
 24 he will distract its leading men
 and set them in a pathless
 waste astray,
 25 where in the dark they grope
 without a light,
 wandering aimless like a
 drunken wight.
- 13 I have seen all this for myself,
 I have myself heard it and
 noted it;
 2 what you know I know, too,
 I am no more fool than you.
- 3 Only—I would appeal to the
 Almighty,
 it is with God that I would
 fain join issue.
- 4 You whitewash everything with
 lies,
 you patch up futile argu-
 ments, all of you.
- 5 If only you would hold your
 peace,
 then you might pass for wise
 men!
- 6 Listen now to the charge I bring,
 hear what I have to urge;
 17 listen to all I say,
 give me a hearing as I plead
 my case.
- 7 Will you bring unfair arguments
 for God?
 Will you tell lies on his behalf?
- 8 Will you be sycophants of the
 Almighty?
 Will you be special pleaders
 for God?
- 9 Will it be well when he probes
 you?
- Can you deceive him like a
 man?
 No, he will punish you, 10
 if you are sycophants of his in
 secret.
- Should not his majesty make 11
 you shudder?
 should not the dread of him
 seize you?
- Your maxims crumble like ashes, 12
 your arguments collapse like
 mounds of clay.
- Silence! let me alone—I must 13
 have speech,
 whatever happens!
- I will run any risks, 14
 I will hazard my very life!
- He may kill me—what else can 15
 I expect?—
 but I will maintain my inno-
 cence to his face.
- This should be in my favour, 16
 that before him no godless
 man dare come.
- I foresee how my case will go, 18
 I know the verdict will be
 mine.
- Will anyone disprove my inno- 19
 cence?
 then I would be dumb and die!
- Spare me two things alone, O 20
 God,
 and then I need not hide away
 from thee:
- lift off thy heavy hand, 21
 and scare me not with thy
 terrors,
 then I will answer thy sum- 22
 mons—
 or else, answer thou my sum-
 mons.
- Tell me all I have done wrong, 23
 let me know what sin I am
 guilty of.
- Thou wilt not? Why art thou 24
 unfriendly,
 why treat me as thine enemy?
- Wilt thou harry a poor fluttering 25
 leaf?

- Wilt thou pursue a withered
straw?
- 26 A bitter sentence thou hast
passed on me,
that I must pay for errors of
my youth.
- 27 Thou fastenest logs to my feet,
thou watchest every step I
take;
thou hast clipped my roots,
14 and hemmed my growth in
5b narrow bounds.
- 1 Man born of woman
lives but a few days and is full
of trouble;
2 he flowers and fades,
he is a fleeting shadow.
- 3 And thou wilt fasten upon such!
Thou wilt bring him to
justice,
13 his life all rotting in decay
28 like a moth-eaten robe!
- 14 [[O that among the impure
4 might be found
one pure man; but there is
not one!]]
- 5a As thou hast fixed man's days
and numbered his few
months,
6 take thine eye off him, let him
have some peace,
until his labouring day be
done.
- 7 There is hope for a tree that is
felled;
it may flourish again,
the shoots of it need not fail;
8 though its root decays in the
soil,
though its stump is dead in
the ground,
9 it may bud at the scent of water,
and put out boughs like a
plant.
- 10 But man dies and departs,
man breathes his last—and
where is he?
- 11 Like the water of a vanished lake,
like a dry, drained river,
man lies down, never to arise, 12
never to waken, though the
skies wear out,
never to stir out of his slum-
ber.
- Would'st thou but hide me in 13
the nether world,
concealing me until thy wrath
is over,
and then remember me when
it is time!
- If only man might die and live 14
again,
I could endure my weary post
until relief arrived;
thou would'st call, and I would 15
come,
when thou didst yearn for
life that thou hadst made;
thou would'st not keep account 16
of all I do,
thou would'st not watch for
nothing but my faults;
my guilt would be sealed up 17
and set aside,
thou would'st condone my sin.
But alas! even mountains crum- 18
ble,
rocks are swept aside,
stones are worn by water, 19
floods wash the soil away,
and thou destroyest all the
hopes of man.
- Thou art too strong for him, 20
he has to go;
thou alterest his face in
death, and he departs.
- His sons are honoured, but he 21
never knows;
his sons are shamed—he
never feels it.
- But his kinsfolk feel grief for him, 22
and for him his servants
mourn."
- Then Eliphaz the Temanite 15
replied:
"Would any man of sense argue 2
so wildly,
or make himself a wind-bag?

- 3 Would he talk on, to no profit,
with words that serve no purpose?
- 4 You undermine religion,
with your threatening of God;
- 5 it is your sin inspiring you to speak,
to choose your ground so cunningly.
- 7 Were you the first man to be born?
Are you older than the hills?
- 8 Are you a member of God's council?
Have you made divine wisdom all your own?
- 9 Do you know anything we do not know?
What lore is yours that is not ours?
- 10 Grey hairs and age are on our side,
men older far than your own father.
- 11 The divine comfort that we bring, you slight,
our words that deal with you so gently?
- 12 Why let your passions carry you away?
Why do your eyes flash proudly?
- 6 You are convicted out of your own mouth;
your own lips prove—not I—
- 13 that you turn angrily on God,
and talk rebelliously.
- 14 What is man? how should he be clean?
Man born of woman, how should he be pure?
- 15 Even on his angels God cannot rely,
the very heavens are stained to him;
- 16 and how much more a loathsome, tainted creature,
a man who gulps down wickedness like water!
- Listen, let me tell you this,
let me relate what I have learned—
a truth that wise men handed down,
imparted to them by their fathers,
who had the land all to themselves,
untainted by a foreigner.
- ‘The bad man suffers torment all his life,
through all the years he has to work his will.
- Terrors are always sounding in his ears;
some plunderer will break his peace, he fears;
Of lasting through the dark hour, he despairs,
sure that his doom is fixed,
to be the vulture's prey,
to perish by the sword;
the dark days terrify him,
anguish and agony overpower him.
- For he challenged God,
he matched himself against the Almighty,
charging at him haughtily,
behind stout bossed shields—
so swollen in prosperity,
so bloated in his wealth.
- He rebuilt ruined cities for himself,
places that no man ought to dwell in.
- But what he won he cannot keep,
the harvest of his gain he cannot reap.
- His branches whither in the heat,
his fruit is whirled off by the wind;
his boughs fade all too soon,
before their fronds are green;
he drops his unripe clusters like a vine,
he sheds his blossoms like an olive.

- 34 For the godless are a barren
tribe,
and fire destroys the men
who bribe;
35 big with mischief, they bear mis-
chief—
disappointment—for them-
selves!"
- 16 Then Eyob replied:
2 "Often have I heard you talk
like that already—
plaguy comforters that you
are!
3 Will your own windy speeches
never end?
What ails you that you will
be answering me?
4 I could talk as you talk,
if you were in my place;
I could string strictures upon
you,
and toss my head in scorn;
5 I could talk courage to you,
I would not spare the lan-
guage of compassion!
6 I would not spare my pity if I
spoke;
even were I silent, I would
pity still!
- 7 Here is God wearing me out,
dazing me!
My misery shrivels me up;
8 my gauntness proves my guilt,
it is an open evidence against
me!
9 He flings me down and rends
me in his rage,
he shows his teeth at me.
12 When I was happy, he crushed
me,
he caught me by the neck
and mangled me.
He set me up to be his target,
13 his arrows are raining upon
me;
he pierces my vitals without
pity,
till my entrails ooze out on
the ground.
- Breach after breach he makes 14
upon my walls,
he storms me with a war-
rior's rush.
- I have stitched sackcloth on my 15
skin,
and bowed my glory to the
dust;
my face is flushed with tears, 16
my eyes are dimmed,
though I have done no wrong, 17
although my life is innocent.
Cover not up my blood, O 18
earth!
let the cry of it wander
through the world!
Yet even already heaven has a 19
witness for me,
and there is One on high to
vouch for me.
My friends deride me, 20
but my tears turn to God in
prayer,
that he would plead for man 21
against Himself,
and vindicate a man against
his friends!
- Come but a few years more, 22
and I go, never to return;
my strength and time are spent, 17
and the grave alone is left
me.
Illusions are indeed my lot; 2
I face the bitter mockery of life.
Give me a pledge that thou 3
thyself will act;
who else would undertake my
cause against thee?
Thou hast made me a byword 6
in the world;
men look upon me like a
monster—
like one who bids friends to a 5
feast,
and lets his children starve!
My eyes are dimmed with 7
weeping,
my limbs are worn to a
shadow;

11 my days pass in despair,
 my heart is broken;
 12 night is a day to me,
 and light is darkness;
 13 all I can hope for is a home
 below,
 to make my bed in the dark-
 ness of death,
 14 to call the tomb 'my mother,'
 to call the worm 'my sister'!
 15 Where, where is any bliss for me?
 O where can I see any hope?
 16 Bliss and hope sink with me
 below;
 we go down to the grave to-
 gether."
 18 Then Bildad the Shuhite
 made reply:
 2 "Will you keep quiet?
 silence! and let us speak.
 3 Are we to be treated like
 beasts?
 Think you we are dumb
 cattle?
 17 Good men are horrified at you,
 8 and honest men provoked by
 your impiety.
 9 Nevertheless the upright shall
 not falter;
 a stainless soul grows ever
 stronger.
 10 See here, you angry creature,
 18 tearing yourself to pieces in
 4 your rage,
 is the world to go to wrack and
 ruin,
 are things to be upset, be-
 cause of you?
 5 No, the light of an evil man is
 quenched,
 his fires shall fail,
 6 the light in his home shall be
 dark,
 the lamp over his head goes
 out;
 7 his stride is checked,
 his own plots make him slip;
 8 he entangles himself in a net,
 and sprawls within its
 meshes,

his heels are caught in a snare, 9
 \and the trap closes on him
 tight,
 a noose lies hid for him upon 10
 the ground,
 a pitfall on his path.
 Terrorssurround and startle him, 11
 they chase him at his heels;
 ruin is ravenous for him, 12
 disaster only waits for him to
 stumble.
 Sickness gnaws at his skin, 13
 deadly disease eats away his
 limbs.
 He shall be dragged from his 14
 security,
 and haled before the king of
 terrors.
 His home shall be infested with 15
 disease,
 and brimstone shall be scat-
 tered on his homestead.
 His roots shall be dried up 16
 below him,
 his boughs shall wither over-
 head.
 His memory shall vanish from 17
 the land;
 he leaves no name on earth.
 He shall be driven from light 18
 into the dark,
 and chased out of the world.
 He shall leave neither son nor 19
 scion;
 not one remains in the old
 home.
 His fate astounds the west, 20
 appals the east.
 So fares a godless home, 21
 so fares the man who has no
 care for God."
 Then Eyob answered: 19
 "How long will you harrow my 2
 soul,
 and crush me with your
 words?
 Time and again you have 3
 taunted me,
 you have wronged me shame-
 lessly.

4 Supposing I have sinned,
 does my sin injure you?
 5 Are you to lord it over me,
 and to reproach me with my
 misery?
 6 Understand, it is God who has
 undone me,
 and spread his nets around
 me.
 7 I cry out 'Murder'!—there is
 no reply;
 I call for help, and get no
 justice.
 8 He has blocked up my road,
 he has darkened my path,
 9 he has stripped me of honour,
 he has degraded me,
 10 he has demolished me,
 and torn my hope up by the
 roots;
 11 he has flamed in wrath at me,
 and treated me as his foe;
 12 on his troops come, in a swarm,
 bent on besieging me!
 13 My clansmen have abandoned
 me,
 my friends are all estranged,
 14 my kinsmen will not own me,
 and my guests ignore me;
 15 maids of mine treat me like a
 stranger,
 to them I am an alien;
 16 my serf will not obey my orders,
 I have humbly to entreat him;
 17 my breath is loathsome to my
 very wife,
 my smell is hateful to my
 children;
 18 even young lads despise me,
 when I draw near they run
 away;
 19 all my intimates detest me,
 men I love turn against me.
 20 My skin is clinging to my bones,
 my teeth are falling out.
 21 Have pity on me, O my friends,
 have pity,
 for the hand of God has
 struck me.
 22 Why persecute me like God,

as if no slander were enough
 for you?

O that my defence were written, 23
 O that my case could be pre-
 served in writing,
 cut with an iron pen on lead, 24
 or lastingly engraved on
 stone!

Still, I know One to champion 25
 me at last,
 to stand up for me upon
 earth.

This body may break up, but 26
 even then
 my life shall have a sight of
 God;

my heart is pining as I yearn
 to see him on my side, 27
 see him estranged no longer.

O you who think to run me 28
 down,
 to blame me for my sufferings,
 beware of your falsehoods! 29
 Such slanders call for God's
 own sword,
 to teach you impious men
 what the Almighty is."

Zophar the Minaean answered: 20
 "Now this does rouse my soul, 2
 my heart is stirred,
 to listen to your insults and ex- 3
 cuses—
 an empty answer to my argu-
 ments!

Know you not that from of old, 4
 ever since man was in the
 world,
 the sinner never sings for long, 5
 and godless men have short-
 lived joy?

Though he may tower in 6
 triumph to the skies,
 although his head may touch
 the very clouds,
 he is swept away like his own 7
 dung,
 till those who knew him ask,
 'Where is he?'

- 8 He disappears like a dream—
no trace of him—
he vanishes like a vision of
the night;
- 11 when manly vigour fills his
frame,
he and his manly vigour go
to dust;
- 10 he leaves his children poor,
his sons have to disgorge his
plunder.
- 12 Though sin is a sweet morsel in
his mouth,
though he rolls it under his
tongue,
- 13 loth to let it go,
keeping it still on his palate,
- 14 yet the food turns to venom in
his stomach,
to the poison of asps;
- 16 asps shall sting him with their
tongues,
and he sucks in poison.
- 15 He has to vomit the wealth he
has swallowed;
God makes him eject it.
- 17 He shall not feed on milk from
the meadows,
on honey or on butter from
the pastures;
- 18 his swelling hoards bring him
no happiness,
he has no joy, for all his
trafficking.
- 19 As he was hard upon the poor,
and seized on houses that he
never built,
- 20 as his greed knew no pause,
he shall not save one thing
that he desired;
- 21 as nothing ever escaped his
grasp,
his own prosperity shall not
last;
- 22 for all his wealth, he finds him-
self in straits,
exposed to the full force of
misery.
- 23 God lets his anger loose at him,
and rains on him his wrath!
- He flies from men in iron mail, 24
and is shot down by a bow
of bronze;
the arrow comes out at his back, 25
the point driven through his
entrails;
death's terrors close on him,
and darkness is his doom. 26
A fire that no man lit consumes
him,
and burns up all he leaves at
home;
his house is swept to ruin, 28
accursed in the day of wrath
divine.
Heaven lays bare his guilt, 27
earth rises to denounce him.
This is what God bestows upon 29
a sinner,
this is what God awards a
godless man."
- Eyob replied: 21.
"Attend to what I urge; 2
it will console me, if you only
listen!
- Pray let me have my say; 3
and after I have spoken,
mock away!
- It is not against man that I 4
complain;
so why should I be patient?
See here! let this astound you, 5
let it awe you into silence!
- When I think of it, I am all 6
aghast,
I am seized with shuddering.
Why do wicked men live on, 7
live to be old and strong?
Their homes are safe from fear; 9
God's rod never strikes them.
Their bullocks breed without 10
fail,
their cows calve safely.
They see their family flourishing, 8
their eyes rest on their off-
spring;
their children flock out to the 11
fields,
boys and girls dancing mer-
rily.

- 12 They sing to the lyre and tambourine,
make merry to the music of the pipe;
13 they lead a prosperous life,
and die in peace—
14 men who bade God, 'Begone from us;
we have no interest in thee and thine!
15 Why should we serve the Almighty?
What is the good of us praying to him?'
18 (—to him who fills them with prosperity!
Far be such impious thoughts from me!)
21 Are they not masters of their
16 fortunes?
Does God concern himself with what they scheme?
17 How often does he extinguish evil men?
Tell me how often calamity befalls them!
How often does God rack them in his anger?
18 How often are they mere straws before the wind,
chaff swept before the storm?
19 'God,' you say, 'punishes the children for it?'
Better he made the men themselves feel punishment!
20 The evil man should witness his own ruin,
and drink the Almighty's anger for himself.
21 What interest has he in his family,
once his own span of life is snapped?
22 Does God draw any difference between men?
In high heaven does he govern this world?
23 Why, one man dies, robust and hale,
in full peace and prosperity;
his powers are fresh, 24
his health is sound.
Another man dies, broken- 25
hearted,
and never gets the good of life.
Both lie down in the dust to- 26
gether,
and worms swarm over both of them.
I know what you are thinking, 27
I know the cruel wrong you do me.
Why offer me your idle consolations, 34
when all you urge is false?
'What of the tyrant's house?' 28
you ask,
'where are the dwellings of evil men?'
Well, talk to travellers, 29
learn what they have to tell:
of how an evil man is spared 30
calamity,
how he goes scatheless from the wrath of God.
Who ever tells him plainly what 31
he is?
Who ever punishes him for his crimes?
No, he is carried to a stately 32
grave,
and all men follow his great 33
funeral;
quiet he lies amid the clods,
and well his tomb is cared 32
for."
Then Eliphaz the Temanite 22
replied:
"Can man offer God any in- 2
sight,
so that a sage should be of use to him?
Has the Almighty any interest 3
in your goodness?
Does he gain by your blameless life?
Why should he punish you for 4
your religion,
and pass sentence on you?"

5 Grave your guilt must be,
endless your sins.
6 You have selfishly fleeced your
fellows,
and stripped your debtors to
the skin;
7 you have not given water to
the weary,
you have starved the hungry;
9 you have sent widows away
empty-handed,
you have been oppressing
orphans,
8 to let the powerful hold the
land,
to let squires settle down.
10 Therefore, it is that snares close
on you,
and panic fear is scaring you,
11 therefore has your light turned
to darkness,
and floods have overwhelmed
you.
12 Is not God high in heaven?
Does he not look down on
the topmost star?
13 And yet you say, 'God never
notices!
Can he rule through the thick
darkness?
14 He moves on the high vault of
heaven;
he cannot see us for the
clouds that veil him.'
15 Is that the line you choose,
the line that evil men took
long ago?
16 They came to an untimely end;
when the floods undermined
them,
19 good men rejoiced to see their
fate,
and over them the guiltless
jeered,
20 shouting, 'Our foes are now ef-
faced,
and what they leave the
flames will burn!'
21 Give way to God, submit to him,

and it will mean prosperity
for you;
accept the orders that he issues, 22
take his words to heart.
If you turn humbly to the Al- 23
mighty,
and banish evil from your
home,
[[if you will throw your treas- 24
ures to the ground,
and fling your gold of Ophir
in the stream,
and make the Almighty him- 25
self your treasure,
sound wisdom your wealth,]]
then the Almighty shall be a 26
joy to you,
and you can raise your eyes
to God;
when you pray, he will answer 27
you,
and then you can fulfil your
vows to him;
whatever you plan shall pros- 28
per,
and you shall live in sunshine;
for he humbles haughty up- 29
starts,
and he helps the lowly,
he saves those who are guiltless, 30
rescuing them for their un-
spotted record."

Then Eyob replied: 23
"But my complaint is bitter 2
still;
under his heavy hand I lie
and moan.
O that I knew where to find 3
him,
how to reach his very throne,
and there lay my case before. 4
him,
arguing it out to the full!
Fain would I learn what his 5
reply would be,
and understand what he
would say to me.
Would he meet me with his 6
almighty power?
No, he would listen to me;

- 7 there I might argue with him
as one innocent,
and have my judge acquit me
for all time.
- 8 But I go forward, and he is not
there;
backward, and yet I cannot
behold him;
- 9 I seek him on my left, in vain;
when I turn to the right, I
cannot see him.
- 10 Yet he knows how I live;
when he tests me, I shall
prove sterling gold.
- 11 I have kept closely to his foot-
steps,
never swerving from his path;
- 12 I never stray from his com-
mands,
I treasure up his orders.
- 13 But who can make him change
his mind?
He does whatever he may
choose!
- 15 So I am cowed before him;
the thought of him dismays me.
- 16 For God makes my heart faint,
the Almighty cows me;
- 17 I am appalled at his dark mys-
tery,
and its black shadow has be-
wildered me.
- 24 Why has not the Almighty ses-
sions of set justice?
Why do his followers never
see him intervening?
- 2 Evil men are removing land-
marks,
plundering flocks and shep-
herds,
3 driving off the orphan's ass,
seizing the widow's cow for
debt,
9 tearing her fatherless babe from
her breast,
seizing the very infants of the
poor for debt,
4 evicting poor folk, till these
humble souls
must hide and huddle away;
- they wander like the wild-ass in 5
the desert,
roaming in search of food—
for the children have no
bread.
- They have to steal corn from 6
the fields by night,
and rob the vineyards of the
rich;
- all night they lie naked, unclad, 7
uncovered from the cold,
drenched by downpour from the 8
hills,
and clinging to rocks for shel-
ter,
till vigour fails them, 30, 2
and their vital strength is
gone.
- Gaunt with hunger and with 3a
want,
they gnaw herbs in the wold, 3b
gathering salt-wort under 4
bushes,
using broom-roots for their
fuel.
- They grope in waste and deso- 3c
late places,
driven from the haunts of 5
men—
the hue and cry after them,
like thieves!
- They live in dark ravines, 6
in caves and rocks,
grunting among the bushes, 7
coupling under the scrub,
brainless creatures and base, 8
routed out of the country.
- Some have to go bare, un- 24
clothed,
hungry while they are har- 10
vesting,
pressing the oil between the 11
rows of olives,
thirsty while they crush wine
from grapes.
- Others evade the daylight, 13
caring not for the ways of
God,
refusing to pursue his paths.
- The murderer rises in the dark, 14
to kill poor folk and helpless;

- 12 the groan of victims rises from the town,
and wounded men cry out—
but God pays no heed to the crime.
- 15 The adulterer watches for the twilight;
he muffles up his face,
and mutters, 'Not a soul will see me!'
- 14 The thief prowls in the night,
16 and breaks into houses in the dark;
thieves keep themselves shut up during the day,
they all detest the light;
- 17 they choose the midnight as their time,
they are familiar with the ways of darkness.
- 18 [[He is swept off by the flood,
a curse lies on his property;
no foot turns to his vineyard,
19 ruined by drought and heat,
flooded with melting snow.
- 20 The streets of his native place forget him,
his greatness is no more remembered,
he is uprooted like a rotten tree,
- 21 he who ill-treats the widow,
and pities not her children.]]
- 22 Yet God lets them remain alive and strong;
they rise, when they despaired of life!
- 23 He lets them rest in safety,
he watches over them!
- 24 [[Have patience! they will soon be gone,
brought low and bundled off like all the rest,
lopped like the ears of corn.]]
- 25 Who can deny it? who can prove I lie,
and show that what I urge is idle talk?"
- 25 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered:
- "What a help you are to poor 26
God!
What a support to his failing powers!
What wise directions you can 3
give to him
out of your ample stores of knowledge!
Who helped you to such elo- 4
quence?
Who was it that inspired you?
- He wields a dread authority, 25
he keeps the peace within 2
high heaven.
His armies, who can number 3
them?
Whom cannot he surprise and seize?
Then how can man be just be- 4
fore God?
How can a mortal man be pure?
To him the very moon is not 5
unsullied,
the very stars are stained!
How much more that mere 6
maggot, man,
that worm, a mortal man?
- Before him the primæval giants 26
writhe, 5
under the ocean in their prison;
the underworld lies open to his 6
eyes,
the nether regions are unveiled.
The northern skies he spreads 7
o'er empty space,
and hangs the earth on nothing;
he wraps up water in his clouds, 8
and the clouds burst not under it;
he veils the face of the full 9
moon,
spreading his cloud over it.
The dome of heaven he arched 10
over the deep,
bounding the darkness from the light;

- 11 then swayed the pillars of the sky,
appalled at the thunder of his rebuke;
- 12 by his power he quelled the sea,
and by his wisdom he laid low the Dragon;
- 13 by his breath the skies were cleared,
and his hand maimed the swift cloud-monster.
- 14 And all this is the mere fringe of his force,
the faintest whisper we can hear of him!
Who knows the full thunder of his power?"
- 27 Then Eyob again replied:
2 "As God lives, who has wronged me,
as the Almighty lives, who has embittered me,
4 I swear I speak the truth,
I tell no lie,
5 when I maintain (by God!) that you are wrong,
when I assert that I am innocent!
- 3 For I am sound and sane;
God's breath is in me.
6 I hold unflinching to my innocence;
not for one hour need I reproach myself.
- 12 You have all seen this for yourselves;
then why vapour so vainly?"
- 7 Zophar the Minæan replied:
"May my worst enemy fare like the wicked,
may my foe die the death of the unjust!
- 8 For what hope has a godless man
when God demands his soul?
- 9 Will God ever listen to his cry
when woe befalls him?
- Will he obtain his wish from 10
the Almighty?
Will the Almighty heed him
when he calls?
- I can show you how God's 11
power works,
I will disclose the dealings of
the Almighty.
- Here is what God awards an 13
evil man,
what the Almighty bestows
upon a tyrant:
if his children grow up, some 14
fall by the sword,
some starve;
his sons are victims of the 15
plague,
their widows cannot wail for
them;
he may store silver up like dust, 16
and prepare robes abundant
as the clay;
he may prepare them, but the 17
just shall wear them,
and good men shall divide his
silver;
the house he builds is like a 18
spider's,
flimsy as a watchman's shelter.
He lies down rich—it is the end! 19
he opens his eyes, to find that
all is over!
Terrors seize him in the day, 20
a tempest carries him off by
night;
an east wind whirls him clean 21
away,
sweeping him from his site.
God pelts him without pity, 22
though fain he would escape;
God openly derides him, 23
and hisses scorn at him from
heaven.
- Where is wisdom to be found? 28
And knowledge, where does
it abound?
For silver there are mines,
and places for refining gold;
iron from the earth is taken, 2
copper smelted out of stones.

- 3 Men search the darkness to its depth,
 and in the pitchy gloom for stones they grope;
 4 they run a shaft down far from daylight,
 they hang below, swinging upon a rope.
 5 A harvest comes out of the earth below,
 when the miner blasts it underground;
 6 sapphires lie among its stones,
 and he picks up lumps of gold;
 9 he falls to work upon the flinty rocks,
 he turns the hills up by the roots;
 10a he drills a channel in the cliff,
 11a to draw the water off;
 10b he delves for what is rare,
 11b and hidden gems he will uncover.
 12 But where is wisdom to be found?
 And knowledge, where does it abound?
 7 No vulture knows the path to it,
 no hawk's eye ever spies it,
 8 no proud beast ever paces it,
 no lion moves along it;
 13 not a man knows that path,
 in the land of the living none finds it.
 14 The deep says, 'Not in me!' The sea says, 'Not in me!'
 15 No solid gold can purchase wisdom,
 no silver can be paid for her;
 16 there is no price for her in gold of Ophir,
 in precious beryls or in sapphires;
 17 gold and glass are no match for her,
 jewels of gold are no exchange for her;
 coral and crystal are not to be mentioned;
 wisdom is more precious even than rubies;
 the Ethiopian chrysolite is not equal to her,
 no weight of gold can be paid down for her.
 Where is wisdom to be found? 20
 And knowledge, where does it abound?
 For she is hid from every living creature,
 even from the eyes of a wild bird.
 Death and the underworld declare,
 'We have only heard of her.'
 God knows where she is, 23
 God only is aware of her abode;
 for he saw to the very ends of earth,
 he scanned the whole world under heaven,
 when he fixed the forces of the wind,
 and measured out the waters,
 when he made rules for the rain, 26
 and paths for the flash of lightning;
 he saw wisdom then, and studied her, 27
 worked with her and proved her.
 And he declares to man, 'For you 28
 to reverse me is your wisdom,
 to shun evil—that is knowledge!' ”
 Then Eyob again replied: 29
 “O to be as once I was in 2
 months gone by,
 in the days when God was guarding me,
 when his lamp shone over my head,
 and I could walk by his light through the dark!

- 4 O to be as I was in my prime,
 when God was sheltering my
 home,
 5 when the Almighty still was
 with me,
 when my children were about
 me,
 6 when my farms were a-flow with
 milk,
 and oil gushed from my oil-
 press!
 7 When I went to the city-
 council,
 and sat down among the
 burghers,
 8 the youths fell back before me,
 seniors rose to their feet,
 9 the nobles ceased to talk,
 and held their peace,
 10 the magnates became mute,
 and were struck dumb.
 21 Men listened to me carefully,
 and silently awaited my ad-
 vice;
 22b my words fell fresh on them
 like showers,
 23 they waited for me as for
 rain,
 like the dry clods in spring for
 rain,
 22a and when I spoke, no one
 would speak again.
 24 When I smiled, it encouraged
 them,
 my cheerful gaze put heart
 into the hopeless;
 25 I fixed their policy, I presided
 there,
 commanding as a monarch
 among men.
 11 Men blessed me when they
 heard of me,
 men owned my worth who
 saw me;
 12 for I delivered poor men when
 they cried,
 the fatherless and helpless;
 13 perishing people gave me their
 blessing,
 I gladdened the heart of the
 widow;
 I wore the robe of charity and 14
 kindness,
 my justice was tunic and a
 turban;
 I was eyes to the blind, 15
 I was feet to the lame,
 I was a father to protect the 16
 poor,
 taking their case up, though
 it was not mine;
 I broke the jaws of any who 17
 oppressed,
 and forced their fangs to
 drop their prey.
 So I thought, 'I shall grow old 18
 among my brood,
 my days shall be like sand for
 number;
 my roots reach to the water, 19
 the dew lies on my branches
 all the night;
 fresh honours fall to me, 20
 I grow in might.'
 And now my juniors mock me, 30
 men whose sires I would have 1
 scorned
 to trust with a sheep-dog's
 task!
 God leaves me to these impu- 16
 dent lads, 11
 he throws me to malicious
 men;
 my foes glare on me grimly, 9c
 panting with open mouth. 10
 they strike me on the cheek, in-
 sulting me,
 banding together to attack
 me.
 I am the butt of their songs, 30
 I am a byword among them; 9
 they loathe me, hold aloof from 10
 me,
 and at the sight of me spit in
 disgust.
 They have unstrung me and un- 11
 done me,
 with their unbridled onset;
 a rabble rises against me, 12
 they set on to besiege me,

- 13 they cut off my escape,
 determined to destroy me;
 and loose to all restraints,
 14 they pour in at the open breach,
 rushing upon me through the
 ruined wall.
 15 Thus terrors are let loose on me;
 my happiness is blown away,
 and like a cloud my welfare
 disappears.
 16 So now my soul within me melts
 with sorrow,
 misery masters me;
 17 the bones are rotting in my
 body,
 the pain that gnaws me never
 slumbers;
 18 my skin is wrinkled with the fell
 disease,
 drawn tight over my limbs.
 19 God has plunged me in the mud,
 I am reduced to dust and
 ashes.
 20 Thou wilt not answer when I
 cry,
 thou hast ceased to care for
 me;
 21 thou hast turned cruel to me,
 thou layest thy heavy lash on
 me,
 22 thou tосtest me before the wind,
 I break up under the blast;
 23 for I know thou wilt house me
 with death,
 where all the living have to
 dwell.
 24 And yet a sinking man will
 stretch his hand,
 crying for help in his calamity.
 25 Will not a man in trouble weep?
 Is not the soul of the forlorn
 distressed?
 26 I hoped for good, and evil came,
 I waited for the light, and
 darkness fell;
 27 my heart is hot and restless,
 misery faces me,
 28 I wail, with none to comfort me,
 fit company for howling jack-
 als,
 for any pack of wolves, 29
 for screaming ostriches.
 My skin is peeling off me black- 30
 ened,
 my limbs burn with the fever,
 my dances turn to dirges, 31
 my lyrics to laments.
 Let God take scales of justice to 31
 my life, 6
 and he would own that I am
 innocent!
 If ever I lived a false life, 5
 if ever I took to fraud,
 if ever I went wrong, 7
 if my heart ever followed my
 eyes,
 may others eat up what I sow, 8
 and may my crops be rooted up!
 I laid an interdict upon my eyes, 1
 never to look with longing on
 a maiden.
 What would I get from the high 2
 God for that?
 What would the Almighty
 send on me for that?
 What but the suffering that falls 3
 to sinners,
 the ruin that rewards the
 vicious?
 Does he not see what'er I do, 4
 and count each step I take?
 If ever my heart was enticed by 9
 women,
 if ever I haunted my neigh-
 bour's door,
 may my own wife be a slave to 10
 strangers,
 a concubine for other men!
 Adultery would be an infamous 11
 offence,
 a crime that calls for punish-
 ment;
 it is a fire that burns life to a 12
 cinder,
 it would burn up whatever I
 possess.
 If ever I ignored the rightful 13
 claim

- of any servant, man or woman,
 14 what could I do when God rose up?
 If he took me to task, what could I say?
 23 No, I feared suffering at the hands of God;
 I could not do it, in my dread of him.
 15 Did not my Maker make my servant too,
 and form us both alike within the womb?
 16 I never grudged a poor man anything,
 I never made a widow pine in want;
 17 I never ate my bite of food alone
 and did not share it with the fatherless.
 18 For, like a father, God has brought me up,
 and cared for me since ever I was born.
 19 If ever I saw any perishing for lack of clothing, naked in their need,
 20 and did not warm them with my fleeces,
 till they blessed me for covering them;
 21 if ever I sued unoffending men,
 because I knew the verdict would be mine,
 22 then may my shoulder drop from its socket,
 my arm snap from the collar-bone!
 38 If ever my land accused me,
 if the furrows all complained with tears,
 39 that I paid not for the fields I worked,
 or murdered those who owned the land,
 may thorns grow up instead of wheat,
 foul weeds for barley!
 If ever I relied on gold,
 or rested everything on solid gold,
 if I rejoiced because my wealth was great,
 because my hands had gathered riches;
 if I looked on the shining sun
 or on the moon that moved in splendour,
 and let my heart go out to them,
 wafting a kiss to them,
 that also would be a crime for punishment,
 for I should have denied the God on high.
 If ever I rejoiced at my foe's ruin,
 or exulted when evil befell him,
 or practised the sweet sin of cursing him
 and praying for his death;
 if my household did not say,
 'Who is not satisfied with his provision?'
 (for never a stranger had to sleep in the streets—
 I opened my door to the traveller);
 if ever I concealed my sin from men,
 covering up my guilt,
 if ever I kept quiet within doors,
 afraid of what the crowd would say,
 dreading public opinion—
 well, here I enter my own plea of innocence.
 O for a hearing!
 O for an answer from the Almighty!
 Would that I had his indictment,
 whatever my Opponent has against me!

36 I would be proud to bear it on
my shoulder,
to bind it like a crown upon
my head,
entering his presence like a prince,
and telling every detail of my
life."

32 Eyob ended, and the three
men said no more to him, be-
cause he considered himself in
2 the right. Then Elihu the son
of Barakël the Buzite, belong-
ing to the clan of Ram, blazed
out in anger—against Eyob, for
making himself out to be better
3 than God, but also against his
three friends for compromising
God by failing to refute Eyob.
4 As they were older men, Elihu
had waited for them to argue
5 with Eyob. But when Elihu
saw that the three men had no
answer to make, his anger
6 blazed. Then said Elihu the
son of Barakël the Buzite:

"I am young and you are aged
men;

so I held back, afraid to tell
you my opinion.

7 I felt the word lay with along life,
and years entitled men to in-
struct wisely.

8 Yet God inspires a man,
'tis the Almighty who
breathes knowledge into
him;

9 it is not always seniors who are
sage,
or aged men who understand;

15 they get dumbfounded and they
say no more,
words fail them.

16 But am I to wait because they
will not speak,
because they stand in silence?

17 No, I will offer my own answer
and speak my mind upon the
matter.

11a I waited till you spoke,

I listened for your arguments; 11b
I paid attention carefully to you, 12a
as you went over your rea- 11c
sons;

and not a man of you confuted 12b
Eyob,

or answered what he urged. 12c
Say not, 'We found him too 13
clever for us!

It must be God, not man, who
puts him down!

He has not met me yet; 14
and I will not meet him with
your replies.

For I am full of things to say, 18
and my mind urges me to
speech.

My mind is like wine bottled up, 19
ready to burst out, like new
bottles.

I must relieve myself by speak- 20
ing,

I must emit my answer.

I would show favour to no man, 21

I would not flatter anyone;

I know not how to flatter— 22
or my Maker would soon
make an end of me.

Now, Eyob, mark my words, 33
listen to all I urge.

Here am I with open mouth,
here is my tongue talking, 2
my heart uttering what is right 3
and true,

and my speech utterly sincere.
Answer me, if you can; 5

stand up and argue with me.
You and I before God are the 6
same;

I too am formed of clay;
God's spirit made me, 4
and the Almighty breathes
life into me.

No fear of me need scare you; 7
I will not be hard on you.

You argued, in my hearing, 8
for I heard you claim—

'I am pure and sinless, 9
innocent and guiltless:

- 10 but God picks a quarrel with me,
 he treats me as his enemy,
 11 he fastens logs to my feet,
 he watches every step I take;
 12 and if I cry, he will not answer:
 no, God conceals himself from men.
 13 Now, why do you complain of him
 for never answering your cry?
 14 God has one mode of speech;
 yes, and if man heeds it not,
 another.
- 15 In dreams, in visions of the night,
 when men fall into trances,
 slumbering on their beds,
 16 he reveals things to them,
 and sends them awful warn-
 ings,
 17 to draw them back from evil,
 and make them give up pride,
 18 to save their souls from death,
 their lives from rushing on
 their doom.
- 19 Or, man is chastened on a bed of pain,
 his limbs are all benumbed,
 20 till his soul turns from food,
 and even dainty dishes he
 abhors;
 21 his flesh grows lean and foul,
 his bones stick out;
 22 his life is on the verge of death,
 near the destroying angels.
 23 But another angel comes to his aid,
 one of God's thousand angels;
 he tells the man his faults,
 24 and then in pity intercedes
 for him,
 that his life may be saved from death,
 since he has found a ransom
 for the man.
- 25 Then his flesh turns fresher than a child's,
 his early strength returns;
- he prays to God and wins his 26
 favour,
 he worships in his presence
 joyfully;
 he tells men how God saved him,
 singing aloud to others, 27
 'I sinned, I went astray,
 but he has not punished me;
 he saved my soul from death, 28
 and let me see the dear light
 of the living.'
- Now God does all this over and 29
 again,
 twice, thrice, for men,
 to bring them back from death 30
 into the sunshine of life."
- Elihu went on: 34
 "Listen to my words, ye wise, 2
 hear me, O ye sages.
 A man's mind tests what he is told, 3
 as the palate tastes food for
 itself;
 let us choose what may be true, 4
 let us fix on what is right.
 Eyob claims that he is innocent, 5
 that God has wronged him;
 'Though I am right,' he says, 6
 'God makes me out a liar,
 he wounds me fatally, though
 I am faultless.'
- Was there ever a man like Eyob, 7
 who gulps down blasphemy
 like water,
 who goes in company with evil- 8
 doers,
 and holds with scoffers?
 He says it is no use for man 9
 to be the friend of God.
- Listen, you are men of sense: 10
 far be it from God to do evil,
 far be it from the Almighty to
 go wrong!
 He makes man answer for his 11
 deeds,
 and fare exactly as he may
 deserve.
 No, never will God do an evil 12
 deed,

- never will the Almighty act
unjustly—
13 he is no viceroy lording it on
earth!—
his heart and hand are on the
universe,
14 and were he to withdraw his
spirit,
were he to gather in his breath,
15 the human race would perish in
a moment,
man would return to the dust.
- 33 Now, Eyob, listen and attend;
31 be silent, let me speak!
32 If you have anything to say, in-
deed,
then answer, for I fain would
see you cleared;
33 if not, then listen to me,
be silent, I will teach you
wisdom.
- 34 Pray understand this,
16 listen to my lesson:
17 Can one opposed to justice govern?
Would you denounce the
strong God and the just,
18 who tells a king he is a knave,
tells nobles they are villains,
19 who never favours princes,
never prefers rich men to
poor?
All are his handiwork,
20 and suddenly, at midnight,
they are dead!
Rich men are torn away,
the mighty disappear mysteri-
ously,
21 for God's eye is on human life,
he watches every step that a
man takes;
22 there is no darkness, there are no
shadows,
where evildoers can ever hide.
23 God has not to fix sessions,
to bring men to justice;
24 he shatters mighty men without
a trial,
and leaves their place to other
men;
- he overturns them in the night, 25
because he marks what they
are doing;
he breaks the villains in his 26
wrath,
and strikes them down before
the world,
because they swerved from 27
following his lead,
and they were reckless of his
rules,
till wails reached him from the 28
oppressed,
and cries from the forlorn
came to his ears.
- If he did nothing, who would 29
dare denounce him?
Were he indifferent, who dare
blame him?—
though he does watch over men 30
and nations,
that none may reign who
would beguile the people.
- No, tell God: 'Now that I have 31
suffered,
I will offend no more;
teach me what I am blind to, 32
and, if I sinned, I will not sin
again.'
- Leave him to deal with you, as 33
he may please;
are you to choose the terms,
not God?
- Say what you like,
but thinking men will say
with me, 34
any wise man who hears me
will agree,
that Eyob has been speaking 35
thoughtlessly,
his words are void of wisdom.
- O that the trials of Eyob might 36
continue,
for his impious answers!
He adds rebellion to his guilt, 37
by heaping blasphemies on
God."
- Elihu went on: 35
"Is it fair, think you— 2

- call this your 'rights before
God'?—
- 3 to ask, 'What do I gain,
what good is it to me, if I sin
not?'
- 4 Well, I will answer you,
you and your friends.
- 5 Look up to heaven, on high,
behold the skies above;
- 6 how can your sin injure God?
What are your many mis-
deeds to him?
- 7 Your innocence—is that a gain
to him?
Can you be any benefit to
him?
- 8 Your guilt affects men like your-
self,
your innocence is man's con-
cern alone.
- 16 Eyob is arguing idly,
lavishing words thoughtlessly;
- 10 he never asks, 'Where is God my
Maker,
who gives men songs of glad-
ness in the night,
- 11 who grants us better knowledge
than the beasts,
more wisdom than the birds?'
- 13 God will not listen to an idle
outcry,
the Almighty will not heed it—
- 14 as when you say you 'cannot
see him'!
Hush! only wait for him.
- 15 But now, because his anger
does not strike,
he is not serious about sin, you
say!"
- 36 Then Elihu continued:
2 "One moment! I will soon
convince you:
there is still something to
be said for God!
- 3 I will now justify my Creator
from a wide survey of the
truth.
- 4 Truly it is no false plea that I
urge;
- here stands a man whose in-
sight is unerring!
- The stubborn God disdains, 5
he will not spare the wicked, 6
he rights those who are wronged,
and gives the just their due;
when they cry, cruelly op- 35
pressed, 9
for rescue from the tyrant's
arm,
cry out against his impious pride, 12
and can get no redress,
he seats them beside kings, 36
high on a throne. 7
- When they are fettered, 8
fast bound in misery,
he lets them see what they have 9
done,
so proudly, so rebelliously;
he makes them listen to sense 10
then,
and bids them turn from sin.
- If they will hear him and sub- 11
mit,
they spend a life of prosperous
days,
and pleasant years.
- But if not, then they die a vio- 12
lent death,
and perish in their folly;
godless at heart, they are en- 13
raged,
they will not cry for help
when he confines them;
they die an early death, 14
like men debased by vice.
- God saves the sufferer by suffer- 15
ing,
and by adversity gets them to
listen;
but your wide freedom has be- 16
guiled you,
your life so undisturbed,
with never a trouble to haunt you,
with rich food on your table.
- And so you meet the full doom 17
of the wicked;
God's judgment grips you.

- 18 Let not his chastening make you
rage at him;
let not the cost of discipline
deter you.
- 19 Would your wealth save you
without suffering,
or all the strength you have at
your command?
- 20 Let not your folly tempt you to
be proud,
like men who think that they
know everything.
- 21 Beware, banish all evil thoughts
—you prefer sin to suffering!
- 22 God's power has a high hand;
who can call him to account?
- 23 Who ever tells him what to do?
Who says, 'Thou hast done
wrong'?
- 24 Remember to extol him for his
creation,
that has moved men to song,
25 that all men love to see,
though man beholds it only
from afar.
- 27 He draws up water from the sea,
distils it from his vapours,
28 and pours the rain down from
the clouds,
dropping in showers on man;
31 therewith he sustains the nations,
and provides food for man-
kind.
- 29 Who knows how the clouds are
spread,
or how he thunders out of his
pavilion?
- 30 Lo, he surrounds himself with
clouds,
and shrouds the mountain-
tops;
- 32 he hurls the lightning from an
unseen hand,
and bids it strike the mark;
33 the thunder tells of him,
of anger blazing at iniquity.
- 37 Does it not make you tremble?
does it not make your heart
leap to your mouth?
- Listen, oh listen to his voice so 2
loud,
to the rumbling from his lips!
He sends the sound pealing 3
across the sky;
he sends his flash to the
fringes of the earth.
After the lightning comes a 4
roar,
God thundering in his maj-
esty;
nor does he hold back the
downpour,
whenever his voice thunders.
- God lets us see his wonders; 5
great things he does, beyond
our ken.
He bids the snow fall on the 6
earth,
also the heavy rains,
that keep men within doors— 7
to let all mortals feel his
power;
the beasts retire into their dens, 8
and lurk inside their lairs.
Storms blow out of the south, 9
and cold comes from the
north;
the ice forms at his breath, 10
and freezes the broad water
hard;
he loads a heavy cloud with hail, 11
and from the cloud his light-
ning scatters,
darting here and there, 12
turning as he directs it,
doing what'er he bids it
over all his world,
either smiting with a curse, 13
or sent in mercy.
- Listen to this, O Eyob, stand 14
still,
think of the wonders of God.
When God works, do you know 15
how?—
how he makes lightning flash
from the clouds?
Do you know how the clouds are 16
poised,

- that pour a deluge when it
thunders?
- 17 Do you know why your clothes
are hot,
when he stills the earth for the
sirocco?
- 18 Can you, like him, roll out the
sky,
solid, as any molten mirror?
- 19 Tell me, what can we say to him?
How can we argue, with our
darkened minds?
- 20 What! man to cavil at his word?
Man to charge him with con-
fusion?
- 21 Men cannot gaze even upon
yonder sun,
so dazzling in the heavens,
now that the wind has come to
clear the clouds,
- 22 now radiant light streams
from the northern sky;
and the splendour of God is
awful,
- 23 the Almighty is beyond our
minds.
Supreme in power and rich in
justice,
he violates no right.
- 24 For this men do him reverence,
and thoughtful men revere
him."
- 38 Then the Eternal answered
Eyob out of a storm, saying:
2 "Who darkens my design
with a cloud of thoughtless
words?
- 3 Confront me like a man;
and answer these my ques-
tions.
- 4 When I founded the earth, where
were you then?
Answer me that, if you have
wit to know.
- 5 Who measured out the earth?—
do you know that?
Who stretched the builder's
line?
- What were its pedestals placed 6
on?
Who laid the corner-stone,
when the morning-stars were 7
singing,
and all the angels chanted in
their joy?
- Who helped to shut in the sea, 8
when it burst from the womb
of chaos,
when I swathed it in mists, 9
and swaddled it in clouds of
darkness,
when I fixed its boundaries, 10
barred and bolted it,
saying, "Thus far and no fur- 11
ther!
Here your proud waves shall
not pass'?
- Have you ever roused the morn- 12
ing,
given directions to the dawn,
to catch earth by the corners 13
and shake out the wicked?—
earth stands out clear like clay 14
stamped by a seal,
in all its colours like a robe.
while wicked men are robbed of 15
their dark hours,
and their uplifted arms are
broken.
- What path leads to the home of 19
Light,
and where does Darkness
dwell?
Can you conduct them to their 20
fields,
and lead them home again?
Have you found out the foun- 16
tains of the sea?
Have you set foot upon the
depths of ocean?
Have the gates of Death been 17
ever shown to you?
Have the warders cowered
before you?
Have you grasped earth in all 18
its breadth?

- How large is it? Tell me, if
you know that.
- 21 Surely you know! you, born
when it was made,
you who have lived so long!
- 22 Have you ever entered the
stores of the snow?
Have you seen the arsenals of
the hail—
- 23 the hail I keep for stormy days,
for battery and assault?
- 24 How are the mists marshalled,
that scatter water on the
earth?
- 25 Who cut a channel for the rain
in torrents,
who made a path for thunder-
bolts—
- 26 raining on lands where no man
lives,
on deserts uninhabited,
- 27 to gladden lonely wastes,
and clothe the dry land with
green sward?
- 28 Have showers a human sire?
Who was the father of the
dew?
- 29 From whose womb came the
ice?
Who gave birth to the hoar-
frost,
- 30 when water freezes hard as
stone,
and the ice hides the depth
below?
- 31 Can you bind up the Pleiades in
a cluster,
or loose the chains of Orion?
- 32 Can you direct the signs of the
Zodiac,
or guide the constellations of
the Bear?
- 33 Can you control the skies?
Can you prescribe their sway
over the earth?
- 34 Can you send order to the clouds,
for water in abundance to be
yours?
- Can you send out the lightning 35
on its mission?
Does it say humbly to you,
'Here am I'?
- Who taught the feathery clouds, 36
or trained the meteors?
Who has the skill to mass the 37
clouds,
or tilt the pitchers of the sky,
when the soil runs into cakes of 38
earth,
and the clouds stick fast together?
- Can you hunt for the lioness, 39
and feed her hungry cubs,
lying within their dens, 40
and couching in their coverts?
Who furnishes the lion's food at 41
evening,
when his young ones cry to God,
seeking their prey?
- Do you know how wild-goats 39
breed on the hills?
Can you control the calving of
the hinds?
- Do you fix their appointed time? 2
Do you know when they are
to bear?
- Down they bend, and the womb 3
opens,
and they drop their young—
lusty offspring, thriving in the 4
open,
that run out and return not to
the herd.
- Who gave the wild-ass his free- 5
dom?
Who let the swift ass roam at
large,
whose home I make the steppes, 6
whose dwelling is the salty
land?
- He scorns the noisy town, 7
he hears no driver's shout;
he scours the hills for pasture, 8
in search of any green thing.
- Will the wild-ox be content to 9
slave for you?
Will he stay in your stable?

- 10 Can you rope him to your plough?
Will he harrow your furrows for you?
- 11 Will you trust to his tremendous strength,
and let him do your field-work?
- 12 Will you rely on him to come
and carry corn home to your threshing-floor?
- 19 Do you give the war-horse his strength,
or cover his neck with the tossing mane?
- 20 Do you make him leap forward like a locust,
snorting bravely, furiously?
- 21 He paws the valley proudly,
facing the clash of arms;
- 22 he mocks at fear, unterrified,
he flies not from the sword;
- 23 the quiver rattles against him,
the glittering spear and javelin,
- 24 but on he charges in wild rage,
straight ahead, never swerving;
- 25 the trumpet sounds—'Aha!' he cries,
scenting the battle from afar,
where captains thunder, 'mid the shouts of war.
- 26 Does your wit send the hawk to soar
and spread her wings for the south?
- 27 Does your word make the eagle mount
to nest aloft among the hills?
- 28 Her home is high upon the cliffs,
on the peak of the crag she perches;
- 29 she spies her prey from the height,
with eyes that see from far;
- 30 her young ones suck up blood,
and where the slain are, there is she.
- [[The ostrich flaps her wings in 13
pride;
but is the feathered creature kind?
She leaves her eggs upon the 14
earth
to warm and hatch out on the dust,
forgetting that a foot may 15
crush them,
or a wild beast tread on them,
harsh to her young as if they 16
were not hers,
unheeding though her labour is in vain;
for God makes her devoid of sense, 17
he denies her intelligence.
Let hunters come, and she will 18
scour the plain,
scorning the horse and its rider.]]
- Will critics still dispute with the 40
Almighty? 2
To argue with God, answer all these questions.
Will you seek to discredit my 8
justice?
To justify yourself, will you condemn me?
If you have an arm like God's, 9
if you can thunder with a voice like his,
then deck yourself in majesty 10
and pomp,
array yourself in grandeur and in glory;
pour out the fury of your wrath 11
and abase all the proud,
lay all the lofty low, 12
and crush the wicked on the spot,
bury them all in the dust, 13
and shroud their faces with the darkness;
then I will offer praise to you, 14
because your own right hand wins victory!"
- Then Eyob replied to the 3
Eternal:

- 4 "I am of small account: how
can I answer thee?
I lay my hand upon my lips;
5 once I have spoken—never
again!
twice—but I will not say one
other word!
- 42 I admit thou canst do anything,
2 that nothing is too hard for
thee.
3 I thoughtlessly confused the
issues;
I spoke without intelligence
of wonders far beyond my
ken.
5 I had heard of thee by hearsay,
but now mine eyes have seen
thee;
6 so I despise myself,
in dust and ashes I repent."
- 7 Now after the Eternal had
spoken thus to Eyob, the Eter-
nal said to Eliphaz the Tema-
nite, "My anger is hot against
you and your two friends, for,
unlike my servant Eyob, you
have not told the truth about
8 me. But go to my servant
Eyob with seven bullocks and
seven rams: offer them as a
burnt sacrifice for yourselves,
and my servant Eyob shall inter-
cede for you; out of regard for
him, I will not wreak destruction
upon you for your impiety."
- 9 Whereupon Eliphaz the Tema-
nite, Bildad the Shuhite, and
Zophar the Minean went and
did as the Eternal had told
them; and the Eternal paid
regard to Eyob's intercession.
10 Also, when Eyob prayed for his
friends, the Eternal turned his
own fortunes; the Eternal gave
Eyob twice as much as he had
11 before. Then came all his
brothers and sisters and his old
friends; they dined with Eyob in
his house, condoling with him and
consoling him for all the misery
that the Eternal had brought
upon him; they each presented
him with a piece of money and
a gold ring.
- In the end, then, the Eternal 12
made Eyob more prosperous
than he had been at first; he had
fourteen thousand sheep and
goats, six thousand camels, a
thousand pair of oxen, and a
thousand she-asses; also, he had 13
seven sons, and three daughters 14
whom he called Ringdove, Cas-
sia, and Applescent. In all the 15
world there were no women to
be found as handsome as the
daughters of Eyob; their father
even let them share the right of
inheritance along with their
brothers. After this Eyob lived 16
for a hundred and forty years;
he lived to see his grandsons
and great-grandsons—four gen-
erations. Then Eyob died, old, 17
after a full life.
- [[Look at the hippopotamus 40
there;
munching grass like an ox. 15
Look at the strength of his 16
thighs,
and the stout muscles of his
belly.
His tail is stiff as any cedar, 17
the sinews of his thighs are
closely knit;
his bones are tubes of bronze, 18
his ribs like iron bars.
He is God's masterpiece, 19
made to be lord of his fel-
lows.
The rivers furnish him with 20
food;
wild animals are all amazed at
him,
as there he lies, below the lotus- 21
trees,
in covert of the reed and fen,
in the shade of thorny thickets, 22
surrounded by the water-
willows.

- 23 He never trembles, though the
torrent rages;
he is unmoved amid the
swollen streams.
- 24 Who catches him with any
barb?
Who runs a rope through his
nose?
- 41 All hopes of seizing him are
vain;
9 the very sight of him dismays.
10 No one is bold enough to stir
him up;
what man could face him?
11 Who could attack him with suc-
cess?
None, none beneath the
sky.
- 12 No hunter would survive to
boast
and brag of his exploits and
his fine arms.
- 1 Can you pull out the crocodile
with a hook,
or tie his tongue down with a
string,
2 or run a cord right through his
gills,
or carry him with a gaff be-
tween his jaws?
3 Will he make many a prayer to
you?
Will he speak softly to you?
4 Will he come to terms with you,
always to be at your service?
5 Will you play with him like a
pet bird,
or cage him to amuse your
maidens?
6 Will fishermen make a meal of
him?
Will traders cut him up?
7 Can you plant harpoons in his
skin,
or pierce the head of him
with spears?
8 Just lay a hand on him!—just
once!—
you will not forget the fray!
- Who can strip him of his hide? 13
Who can pierce his armoured
scales?
Who can force open his jaws? 14
His teeth are a terror!
- His back is row on row of 15
shields,
sealed close and tight,
one scale so near another 16
that no air can pass between,
welded each to each, 17
clasped till they cannot be
parted.
- The light plays on his snorting 18
snout;
his eyes flash like the morn-
ing rays;
flames issue from his mouth, 19
and sparks fly out;
steam pours out of his nostrils, 20
as from a seething, boiling
pot;
his breath would kindle coals, 21
with the fire from his mouth.
- Strength is seated in his neck— 22
all creatures twitch in terror
at him.
- Firm are the flakes of his 23a
flesh;
his heart is stout as a mill- 24b
stone.
- When he comes up, strong men 25
are terrified,
scared by the swirl in the
water;
no sword avails against him, 26
no spear, no dart, no arrow;
he treats a harpoon like a straw, 27
a bronze lance is like rotten
wood;
no arrow makes him fly, 28
stones from a sling to him
are merely stubble,
bludgeons are mere bulrushes, 29
and whizzing javelins he de-
rides.
- His lair is the sharp rocks, 30
he rests his loins upon the
mud.

- 31 He makes the water boil and foam,
churning the deep like un-
guents in a pot;
32 he leaves a shining furrow in
his wake—
one would think the deep
was hoary.
- Nowhere on earth is there the 33
like of him,
a creature born to know no
fear;
wild animals are all in fear of 34
him,
the monarch of proud crea-
tures.]]

THE PSALMS

1

- 1 Happy the man who never goes
by the advice of the un-
godly, who never takes the
sinners' road, nor joins the
company of scoffers,
2 but finds his joy in the Eter-
nal's law, poring over it
day and night.
3 He is like a tree planted by a
stream, that bears fruit in
due season, with leaves
that never fade; whatever
he does, he prospers.
4 Not so the ungodly! No, they
are like chaff swept away
by the wind;
5 when judgments come, the
ungodly shall not stand,
nor shall the sinful last in
the community . of the
just.
6 The Eternal cares for the life
of the just, but the un-
godly life shall perish.

2

- 1 Why are the pagans seething,
and the nations vainly plot-
ting,
2 headed by kings of the world,
and monarchs making plans
against the Eternal and his
chosen one,
3 crying, "Let us snap their ties,
and fling off their control?"
4 Throned in heaven, he laughs,
the Lord mocks at them;
5 then in wrath he speaks to
them,
scares them with his fury.
7a The Eternal's edict let me tell:
6 "I, I have installed my king
on Sion, on my sacred hill."
7b Let me tell the Eternal's mes-
sage:
"You are now my son,
this day am I your father;

ask, and I make you master of 8
pagans,
lord over all to the ends of
the earth;
you can maul them with an 9
iron mace,
and shatter them like pot-
ter's ware!"
So, kings, be wise; 10
you rulers of the world, take
warning;
worship the Eternal reverently, 11
shudder and submit to him,
do homage to him truly, lest 12
he be angry,
and you end in ruin;
for his anger quickly flames—
happy are all who shelter
beside him!

3

*A song of David, when he was
flying from his son Absalom.*
How many foes have I, O thou 1
Eternal!
Many rise against me,
many are saying of me, 2
"There is no help for him in
God."
Ah, but thou shieldest me, O 3
thou Eternal,
in triumph, thou whom I
glorify!
When I call out to the Eternal, 4
he answers me from his sa-
cred hill.
I laid me down to sleep, 5
and this morning I waken, for
the Eternal upholds me;
I fear not thousands of the foe 6
ranged all around me.
My enemies thou wilt all dis- 7b
able,
and the ungodly thou wilt
crush.

7a Up, O Eternal, to the rescue!

8 It is for the Eternal to bring
help:
my God, thy blessing be upon
thy people!

4

From the Choirmaster's collection. To a string accompaniment. A song of David.

1 O God, my champion, answer
my appeal.
When I was hemmed in, thou
hast freed me often;
be gracious to me now and
hear my prayer.

2 Proud men, how long will you
be so misguided,
loving to deal in libels, eager
on vain intrigues?

3 Look how the Eternal marks
me out for favour!
The Eternal listens when I
call to him.

4 Tremble at it and give over
sinning,
bethink yourselves at night
and hold your peace;

5 offer true sacrifice and trust the
Eternal.

6 Many long for a sight of prosperous days;
"Only look up and smile on
us, O Eternal!"

7 My heart thou hast already
given more joy
than theirs who harvest corn
and store new wine.

8 So quietly I lay me down to
sleep,
for even alone, thanks to
thee, I am safe.

5

From the Choirmaster's collection. For flutes. A song of David.

O thou Eternal, listen to my 1
words,
and hear the murmur of my
soul;

my King and God, give ear to 2
my appeal,
for I am calling out to thee;
O hear my morning prayer, 3
for in the morning I set forth
my plea,
and wait thine answer.

Thou art no God to take de- 4
light in vice,
no evil man is any guest of
thine,
no arrogance can look thee in 5
the face;

all wrongdoers and lying men 6
thou hatest,
craft and bloodshed thou abhorrest;

but I have access to thy house, 7
by thy great generosity,
I can bow reverently before
thy sacred shrine.

O thou Eternal, let not my 8
foes thwart me,
lead thou me on, as thou art
just,
make thy path smooth before
me.

For in their talk there is no 9
truth,
their hearts are deep with
mischief,

their throats are open graves—
smooth-tongued deceivers!

O God, condemn them, 10
let their own plots end them.
Down with them, for their
many crimes,
rebellng against thee!

So all who shelter with thee 11
shall rejoice,
and under thy protection
shout for joy;
lovers of thy name ever
exult in thee.

12 For thou wilt bless the just, O
 . thou Eternal,
 shielding them safe,
 crowning them with thy fa-
 vour.

6

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
 tion. To a string accom-
 paniment. For bass voices.
 A song of David.*

1 Punish me not in anger, O
 Eternal,
 do not chastise me in a rage;
 2 have pity on me, Eternal, in
 my weakness,
 O heal me, for my health is
 broken,
 3 my soul is in an anguish of
 dismay.

Ah, why art thou so long of
 helping?

4 O thou Eternal, save my life
 once more;
 for thy love's sake, succour me;
 5 for in death's realm there is no
 thought of thee,
 and who can praise thee in
 the world below?

6 I faint with moaning,
 every night my bed is
 drenched with tears,
 my couch is wet with them;
 7 trouble wears away my strength,
 I age under outrages from my
 foes.

8 "Begone, all of you, evildoers!
 The Eternal listens to my wail,
 9 The Eternal will receive my
 prayer."

10 My foes shall all be utterly dis-
 mayed,
 and suddenly discomfited
 once more.

7

*A dithyramb of David, sung to
 the Eternal, about the taunts
 of Cush the Benjamite.*

I shelter with thee, Eternal 1
 One, my God;
 keep me safe from my pur-
 suer,
 lest he tear me like a lion 2
 and devour me, with none to
 rescue.

If I did it, Eternal One, my 3
 God,
 if I am guilty of injustice,
 if I ill-treated my friend, 4
 if I crushed my foe for no
 cause,

then let the foe chase me, 5
 then let the foe catch me,
 let him trample my life to the
 ground,
 let him lay me low in the
 dust!

[[Bestir thyself in anger, O 6
 Eternal,
 in outbursts of fury against
 our foes;
 awake to aid us, to maintain
 the right.

Summon all nations before thee, 7
 be seated on thy lofty throne,
 O thou Eternal, judge of the 8
 world!

Right our cause, we are inno- 9
 cent, do justice, thou, to
 our integrity,
 put an end to the malice of 10
 the ungodly.

The God of justice reads the 11
 inmost heart;
 God shields us, he who saves 12
 the upright heart;
 God is a just God, every day 13
 indignant.]]

There he is, whetting his sword 14
 again!
 His bow is strung and
 stretched,

- 15 his deadly darts are ready,
his arrows are fire-tipped;
- 16 the scoundrel is alive with
malice,
hatching mischief and decep-
tion;
- 17 he digs out a deep pit—
and into his own pitfall he
shall tumble!
- 18 His mischief shall recoil on his
own head,
his violence shall drop on his
own crown;
- 19 while I thank the Eternal for
his retribution,
and praise the Eternal, the
Most High.

8

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. Set to a vintage mel-
ody. A song of David.*

- 1 O thou Eternal One, our Lord,
what majesty is thine o'er all
the world!
- 2a High in heaven thou hast set
thy splendour,
- 3 to check thy foes, to crush
the rebels.
Let me sing of this, thy heav-
enly strength,
- 2b like tiny children lisping out
thy praise;
- 4 for, as I look up to the heavens
thy fingers made,
the moon and stars that thou
hast shaped,
- 5 I ask, "And what is man, that
thou should'st think of him?
What is a mortal man, that
thou should'st heed him?"
- 6 Yet thou has made him little
less than divine,
thou hast crowned him with
majesty and honour,
- 7 giving him sway o'er all thy
hands have made,
with all things underneath
his feet—

sheep and oxen, all of them, 8
yes and the wild beasts,
birds of the air and fish of the 9
sea—
all that swims on the wet
sea paths!

O thou Eternal One, our Lord, 10
what majesty is thine o'er all
the world!

9

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. For a soprano boys'
choir. A song of David.*

With all my heart I thank thee, 1
O Eternal,
I will tell over all thy deeds
of wonder,
I thrill and triumph in thee, 2
singing praise to thee, O thou
Most High.

For my foes are routed, 3
stumbling to their ruin at thy
frown;
thou hast upheld my cause, my 4
rights,
passing just sentence, seated
on thy throne;
thou hast curbed pagans, crush- 5
ing the ungodly,
blotting their very name out
for all time.

The foe is at an end, no more 6
to be remembered,
the towns thou hast torn up
lie in lasting ruin;
but the Eternal sits enthroned 7
for evermore,
enthroned for government,
he governs all the world with 8
justice
and rules its folk with equity.

So the downtrodden are safe 9
with the Eternal,
he is a refuge in desperate
hours;
those who know what thou art 10
can trust in thee,
for never wilt thou abandon
those who seek thee.

- 11 Sing praise to the Eternal,
whose seat is in Zion,
declare to the nations what
he does,
- 12 how he bears you in mind, this
Avenger of bloodshed,
how he never forgets the wail
of the weak.
- 13 The Eternal has seen what I
suffer, and pitied me,
lifting me from the very
gates of death,
- 14 that in the gates of Zion I may
chant his praise,
exulting in his aid.
- 15 The pagans have sunk in the
pit they dug;
in the net they set their feet
are snared.
- 16 The Eternal has shown what he
is, by a sentence of doom,
as his hands have trapped the
ungodly.
- 17 The ungodly must go back to
death,
all pagans who are forgetful
of God;
- 18 for one day the needy will be
remembered,
the hopes of the downtrodden
will not always be disap-
pointed.
- 19 Take action, O Eternal! let not
man have the upper hand;
let pagans get their doom
from thee!
- 20 Strike them with terror, O
Eternal,
let pagans know that they
are only men!
- 10 Why art thou standing so far
off, O Eternal,
hiding thyself in desperate
hours?
- 2 The ungodly are haughty and
harry the downtrodden—
may they be snared in their
own schemes!
- 3 The ungodly boasts of his rap-
acity;
- the plunderer disowns, de-
spises the Eternal;
he thinks, in his insolence, "God 4
never punishes";
his thoughts amount to this,
"There is no God at all";
the dealings of thy justice 5
high are far beyond his
sight.
- Life for him is always stable;
he laughs at any who oppose
him,
thinking he can never fail, 6
never come to grief.
- His talk is all of perjury and 7
craft,
mischief and injury slip from
his tongue.
- He lurks round hamlets, 8
and murders innocent folk in
secret,
ever on the outlook for the 8
hapless;
- he lies in ambush, like a lion in 9
his lair,
hiding to catch the weak,
to catch the weak and drag
them off.
- He hunts the helpless till they 10
drop,
unlucky victims, in his
clutches.
- And he thinks, "God has for- 11
gotten,"
"He hides his face," "He
never sees."
- But thou hast seen this misery 14
and mischief;
thou markest it, to punish it
thyself!
- The hapless can leave their
plight to thee,
thou Helper of the forlorn.
- Take action, O Eternal, lift thy 12
hand;
O God, forget not the af-
flicted.
- How dare ungodly men scorn 13
God,
thinking that thou wilt never
punish?

15 Shatter the ungodly's power,
punish his evil till there is
no more.

16 The Eternal reigns as king for
evermore;
the pagans are gone from his
land!

17 Thou hearest the desire of the
afflicted,
thou heedest them, thou lis-
tenest to them,

18 that the forlorn and the down-
trodden may have justice,
and mortal man no more may
be a terror.

11

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. A song of David.*

1 With the Eternal I take shelter;
how dare you tell me, then,
"Be off, like a bird, to the hills!

2 Look, impious men bend their
bow,
their arrow is on the string,
to shoot in the dark at the
upright!

3 The pillars of the State are fall-
ing:
what good can a just man
do?"

4 Ah, but the Eternal is within
his sacred palace,
the Eternal is enthroned in
heaven,
his searching glance is upon
mortal men.

5 On good men the Eternal sets
his stamp,
the impious and violent he
loathes;

6 on impious men he showers
down coals of fire,
brimstone and scorching
blasts fall to their lot.

7 For just is the Eternal, he loves
justice;
so the upright alone enjoy
his favour.

12

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. For bass voices. A
song of David.*

Help, O Eternal, goodness is no 1
more,
fidelity has vanished from
mankind!

Empty and false are man's 2
words to his fellow;
they talk with flattering lips
and double minds.

The Eternal cut off every flat- 3
tering lip,
and tongues that talk so
loftily—

men who declare, "We give rein 4
to our tongues;
our lips are our own: who
calls us to account?"

"The weak are being crushed, 5
the needy sigh;

So I take action," says the
Eternal One,

"and set them safe where
they long to be."

And what the Eternal promises 6
is true,
sterling as silver seven times
purified.

So are we kept by thee, O thou 7
Eternal,

safe ever from this world of
men,
where all around us the un- 8
godly strut,
and where base creatures rise
to power.

13

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. A song of David.*

Eternal One, how long wilt thou 1
forget me?

How long wilt thou withhold
thy favour from me?

How long must I cherish a 2
daily grief?

How long is my foe to triumph
over me?

- 3 Look to me, O Eternal One, my
God, and answer me;
revive me lest I sleep the sleep
of death,
4 lest my foe claim, "I have mas-
tered him,"
lest my enemies exult over my
downfall.
5 But on thy kindness I indeed
rely;
let me exult over thy saving
aid,
6 let me be singing to the Eternal
for having dealt with me so
lovingly.

14

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. A song of David.*

- 1 Profane men think,
"There is no God!"
Depraved their lives are and
detestable,
not one of them does right.
2 The Eternal looks from heaven
upon mankind,
to see if any have the sense
to care for God.
3 But all are faithless,
one and all are tainted;
none does what is right,
no, not a single one.
4 Shall they not rue it, these ras-
cals,
who devour my people with
their extortion?
5 Ha! there they are in a panic,
for God is indeed with the
godly!
6 You would baffle these weak
folk?
But the Eternal is their re-
source.
7 [[O that Israel's deliverance
would come from Sion!
When the Eternal restores the
fortunes of his people,
how Jacob will exult,
how glad will Israel be!]]

15

A song of David.

- In thy pavilion, O Eternal, who 1
may be a guest?
who may dwell on thy sacred
hill?
He whose life is blameless, who 2
does right,
he whose words are from the
heart,
no scandal on his tongue to 3
hurt his fellow,
no insult heaped upon his
neighbour;
he who has contempt for rogues, 4
and honours those who rever-
ence the Eternal;
he who keeps to his oath,
though he may lose by it,
he who will take no interest 5
on a loan;
he who will not be bribed
against the innocent—
he, living so, shall never be
rejected.

16

A golden ode of David.

- Keep me safe, O God, for with 1
thee I take shelter.
"Thou art my Lord," I say to 2
the Eternal,
"my welfare rests on thee alone;
in the saints of the land, thy 3
noble followers,
is all my delight."
Sorrow on sorrow is theirs who 4
choose some other god;
their bloody libations I will
never pour,
their names I will never men-
tion.
Thou art what I get from life, 5
O thou Eternal,
thou thyself art my share;
fair prospects are allotted me, 6
a blissful heritage is mine.
I bless the Eternal for his coun- 7
sel,
for teaching me during the
very night;

8 I keep the Eternal at all times
before me;
with him so close, I cannot
fail.
9 And so my heart and soul re-
joice,
my body rests secure;
10 for thou wilt never let me sink
to death,
nor leave thy loyal one to
the grave;
11 thou wilt reveal the path to
life,
to the full joy of thy presence,
to the bliss of being close to
thee for ever.

17

A prayer of David.

1 Listen to the innocent, Eternal
One, and heed our wail,
hear prayers we pour from
honest lips;
2 speed thy sentence in our fa-
vour,
that our eyes may see it.
3 For in thine equity thou hast
tried our heart,
searching us out by night;
thou hast tested us and hast
found nothing wrong,
no evil thought, no sin of
speech;
4 under thy dealings we are silent,
heeding thy words;
5 we have kept close to thy track,
our feet have never faltered;
6 and so we call on thee, O God,
to answer us;
bend thine ear to us, listen
to our plea.
7 Strong saviour, in thy kindness
interpose,
for those who shelter with
thee from their foes;
8 guard us as thine own eye,
hide us under the shadow of
thy wings,
from the ungodly who would
harry us,

the eager enemies that en-
circle us.
Their hearts are closed to pity, 10
their words are insolent;
at every step they dog us, 11
alert to pull us down,
like lions longing to devour, 12
like lions lurking for their
prey.
Up, O Eternal, face them, crush 13
them;
let thy sword save us from
ungodly men!
May thy hand slay them, O 14
Eternal,
sweep them out of the world!
Yet give them here their due of
doom, sating their sons
with it,
let them leave some for their
children!
But may our innocent lives en- 15
joy thy favour,
may we be satisfied when we
wake to see thy vision.

18

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. A song of David the
servant of the Eternal, who
sang these words to the Eter-
nal on the day when the
Eternal rescued him from the
power of all his enemies,
from the power of Saul. He
said:*

O Eternal my Strength, I will 1
exalt thee.
The Eternal is my crag, my 2
stronghold, my deliverer,
my God, my fortalice where I
shelter,
my shield, my saving strength,
my retreat.
The Eternal is to be praised!— 3
I call to him,
and I am rescued from my foes.
For waves of death broke round 4
me,
floods of destruction burst on
me;

5 deadly nets entangled me,
 and fatal snares surprised me.
 6 I called to the Eternal in my
 plight,
 I cried to my God for aid;
 he in his palace heard my voice,
 my cry came to his ears.
 7 The earth was swaying, quaking,
 hills were quivering to their
 base,
 before his anger shaking;
 8 smoke fumed from his nostrils,
 and scorching fire from his lips,
 that kindled blazing coals,
 9 as down he came on the bend-
 ing sky,
 the storm-cloud at his feet.
 10 He rode on flying kherubs,
 and swooped with the wings of
 the wind,
 11 shrouding himself in darkness,
 that veiled his presence round,
 with rain-clouds dark and dense.
 12 Storm-clouds rolled in front of
 him,
 with hail and lightning flashes,
 13 and the Eternal thundered from
 heaven,
 the Most High uttered his voice;
 he scattered his arrows,
 14 shot twisting flashes of light-
 ning,
 till the beds of the waters were
 seen,
 15 and earth's foundations were
 laid bare,
 at thy storming, O Eternal,
 at the snorting of thy nostrils.
 16 He reaches down to raise me,
 he draws me from the flood,
 17 he frees me from my foe so
 strong,
 from haters far too strong for
 me,
 18 who assailed me by surprise in
 my distress;
 but the Eternal comes to my
 support
 19 and sets me free, in a clear
 space;

as he delights in me, he rescues
me.

The Eternal deals with me as I 20
 am upright,
 he recompenses me for my clean
 life;
 for I have kept to the Eternal's 21
 road,
 and never sinned by swerving
 from my God;
 his rules are all before my mind, 22
 I never set aside his orders;
 I was blameless in his eyes, 23
 and kept clear of my sins.
 So the Eternal has rewarded me 24
 for my integrity,
 for my life clean in his eyes.
 To the kind thou provest kind, 25
 and true to the true,
 to the pure thou provest pure, 26
 and treacherous to the treach-
 erous;
 the humble thou wilt raise, 27
 but the haughty thou wilt abase.

O thou Eternal, thou wilt light 28
 my lamp,
 my God, thou wilt make my
 darkness shine;
 by thy help I can face a troop, 29
 by God's help I can leap a
 wall.
 God is unerring in his ways, 30
 the Eternal's promises are tried
 and true;
 he shields all who take shelter
 with him.
 For who is God save the Eter- 31
 nal?
 Who is stedfast but our God?—
 the God who girdles me with 32
 strength,
 and clears the path for me.
 He makes me nimble as a deer 33
 and sets me on the height.
 He trains me how to fight, 34
 till I can bend a bow of bronze.
 Thou hast shielded me with 35
 thine aid,
 thy right hand holds me up;

- thine answers to prayer have raised me up.
- 36 Thou hast given me room to move, and a sure foothold.
- 37 I chase my foes and catch them, I never turn till they are killed,
- 38 I fell them till they cannot rise; they fall down at my feet.
- 39 For thou hast braced me for the fray;
thou makest my assailants drop before me;
- 40 thou makest my foes run before me,
till I finish off those who hate me.
- 41 They cry for help, but there is none to help them,
cry to the Eternal, but they get no answer;
- 42 and I pound them to pieces like dust before the wind,
I crush them like mud in the street.
- 43 Thou hast freed me from feuds, and made me head over pagans;
- 44 outsiders fawn on me, foreigners come cringing to me; once they hear of me, they render homage;
- 45 foreigners give way, and creep trembling from their forts.
- 46 The Eternal is living—blest be my Might,
exalted be my God of victory!—
- 47 God who lets me enjoy my vengeance,
subduing the nation under me.
- 48 O thou my rescuer from my foes,
who settest me high above my enemies,
who rescuest me from violence,
- 49 I thank thee before pagans, O Eternal,
I will sing thy praise.
- 50 [[He gives his king great victories,
- and kindness to his chosen prince,
to David and his dynasty for ever.]]
- 19
- From the Choirmaster's collection. A song of David.*
- The heavens proclaim God's 1 splendour,
the sky speaks of his handiwork;
- day after day takes up the tale, 2
night after night makes him known;
- their speech has never a word, 3
not a sound for the ear,
yet their message spreads the 4
wide world over,
their meaning carries to earth's end.
- See, there is the sun's pavilion pitched!
He glows like a bridegroom 5
leaving his chamber,
he exults like a hero to run his course;
- he sets out from one end of 6
heaven,
and round he passes to the other,
missing nothing with his heat!
- The Eternal's law is a sound 7
law,
reviving life;
the Eternal's is a trusty witness,
that instructs the open-minded;
- the Eternal's orders are just, 8
a joy to the heart;
- the Eternal's command is clear,
a light to the mind;
- the Eternal's faith is a clean 9
faith,
it will last for ever;
- the Eternal's rulings are up-right,
and altogether just—
- more to be prized than gold, 10
than plenty of rare gold,

- sweeter than honey itself,
 than honey from the comb.
- 11 Yes, and by them thy servant
 takes warning;
 in following them there is
 rich profit.
- 12 Yet who can detect his lapses?
 Absolve me from my faults
 unknown!
- 13 And hold thy servant back
 from wilful sins,
 from giving way to them.
 Then blameless shall I be,
 from many a transgression
 free.
- 14 May the words of my mouth
 and the thoughts of my
 heart
 please thee, Eternal One, my
 strength and saviour.

20

From the Choirmaster's collection. A song of David.

- 1 On the day of trouble may the
 Eternal answer you,
 may Jacob's God, whom you
 invoke, protect you,
- 2 sending help from the sanctuary
 and reinforcing you from Sion!
- 3 May he remember all your of-
 ferings,
 and be pleased with all your
 sacrifices,
- 4 granting you your heart's desire,
 fulfilling all your plans!
- 5 We will shout for joy over your
 victory,
 exulting in our God.
 [[May the Eternal fulfil all
 your petitions!]]
- 6 Now I am sure the Eternal
 grants victory to his chosen
 king;
 from his sacred heavens he will
 answer him
 with mighty, saving victories.
- 7 Some pride themselves on char-
 iots, some on horses,

but our pride is our God the
 Eternal;
 the foe must bow and fall, 8
 we rise and stand erect.
 Grant victory to the king, O 9
 thou Eternal,
 and answer our appeal this day.

21

From the Choirmaster's collection. A song of David.

Eternal One, the king rejoices 1
 in thy power;
 how he exults in thy vic-
 torious aid!

Thou hast given him his heart's 2
 desire,
 and denied not his request.

For thou did'st meet him with 3
 blessings of welfare,
 thou did'st place on his head
 a golden crown;

he asked for life, and life thou 4
 gavest,
 life long and lasting.

By thy victorious aid his hon- 5
 our is high,
 with splendour and state thou
 dost endow him;

he is richly blessed by thee for 6
 ever,
 and gladdened with the joy
 of thine own presence.

For the king's trust is in the 7
 Eternal,
 and by the goodness of the
 Most High he stands un-
 moved.

Your hand will find out all 8
 your foes,
 your right hand will reach all
 who hate you;

you will burn them like a blaz- 9
 ing furnace,
 when you appear in anger;
 the Eternal will consume them
 in his wrath,
 devouring them in flames of
 rage.

- 10 You will sweep their children
off the earth,
destroying their offspring
from among men.
- 11 For all their plotting against
you,
for all their plans of mis-
chief, they shall fail;
- 12 for you will force them to re-
treat,
aiming your arrows at their
faces.
- 13 Rise up, O thou Eternal, in thy
power,
and we will sing the praises
of thy might.

22

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. To the tune, "Deer of
the Dawn." A song of
David.*

- 1 My God, my God, why desert
me?
Why do my cries of anguish
bring no help?
- 2 I cry by day, but thou wilt not
reply,
and no relief comes to me in
the night.
- 3 Yet thou art throned, my God,
within the sacred shrine,
receiving praise from Israel!
- 4 On thee our fathers did rely,
relied, and thou didst rescue
them;
- 5 they cried to thee and they
were safe,
relied on thee and were not
disappointed.
- 6 But I am a mere worm, and
not a man,
derided and despised by men;
- 7 all who see me mock at me,
they toss their heads and
sneer,
- 8 "He left it to the Eternal! let
him come to the rescue;
if the Eternal cares for him,
let him come to the rescue!"

'Twas thou indeed didst take 9
me from the womb,
didst lay me on my mother's
breast;

from birth I have been cast 10
upon thy care,
and from my mother's womb
thou hast been my God.

Be not far from me now; dan- 11
ger is near,
and there is none to help.

A brutal horde besets me, 12
fierce bulls of Bashan hem
me in,
panting for me open-mouthed 13
like lions roaring as they rend;
my strength is weak as water, 14
all my limbs give way;
my heart becomes like wax,
it is melting in my breast;
my throat is as dry as a potsherd, 15
my tongue cleaves to my
jaws;
my hands and feet are all dis- 16
figured,
and I am laid low in the dust 15
of death.

For a pack of curs encircles me, 16
a gang of villains surround
me;

I can count all my bones, 17
and my foes are gloating over
me,
dividing already my very 18
clothes,
and casting lots for my rai-
ment.

O thou Eternal, be not far from 19
me,
O Strength of mine, speed to
my aid,
rescue me from the sword, 20
save my life from these curs,
pluck me from the lion's jaws, 21
pluck my unhappy soul from
these wild-oxen's horns.

Then will I tell my fellows of 22
thy fame,

- and praise thee in our gathering:
 23 "Praise the Eternal, ye his worshippers,
 glorify him, all ye sons of Jacob,
 stand in awe of him, all ye sons of Israel!
 24 For he has not despised the poor man's plight,
 he has not hidden his face from me,
 he answered my appeal for help.
 25 Therefore I praise him in our great gathering,
 I pay my vows before his worshippers.
 26 Let the pious partake of the feast to their heart's desire,
 let the Eternal's worshippers praise him,
 and wish me 'Long life and happiness!'"
- 27 [[Men shall bethink them of the Eternal,
 and turn to him from earth's very verge;
 all families of the nations shall bow before him,
 28 for the Eternal reigns, lord of all nations;
 29 prosperous peoples sacrifice and worship,
 dying peoples bow before him,
 folk who cannot keep themselves alive;
 30 their descendants worship him,
 and the next generation has news of the Lord;
 31 his saving deeds shall be declared
 to generations yet unborn.]]

23

A song of David.

- 1 The Eternal shepherds me, I lack for nothing;
 2 he makes me lie in meadows green,

he leads me to refreshing streams,
 and revives life in me. 3

He guides me by true paths,
 as he himself is true.
 My road may run through a 4
 glen of gloom,
 but I fear no harm, for thou art beside me;
 thy club, thy staff—they give me courage.

Thou art my host, spreading a 5
 feast for me,
 while my foes have to look on!
 Thou hast poured oil upon my head,
 my cup is brimming over;
 yes, and all through my life 6
 Goodness and Kindness wait on me,
 the Eternal's guest,
 within his household evermore.

24

A song of David.

The earth belongs to the Eternal, all earth holds,
 the world and its inhabitants;
 'twas he who founded it upon 2
 the seas,
 and fixed it on the floods.

Who may ascend the Eternal's 3
 hill?

Who may stand within his sacred shrine?
 He only who has clean hands 4
 and a heart unstained,
 who never sets his mind on what is false,
 who never breaks his word;
 he gains a blessing from the 5
 Eternal,
 a boon from God his saviour.
 Such are the men who are in 6
 quest of him,
 who seek the presence of the God of Jacob.

7 Raise your arches, O ye gates,
raise yourselves, you ancient
doors!

Welcome the glorious King!

8 "But who is the glorious King?"
'Tis the Eternal, strong in
might,
the Eternal conquering from
the fight.

9 Raise your arches, O ye gates,
raise yourselves, you ancient
doors!

Welcome the glorious King!

10 "But who is the glorious King!"
The Eternal, God of hosts,
he is the glorious King.

25

A song of David.

1 On thee, Eternal One, I set my
heart.

5c all the day long I wait for
thee.

2 In thee I trust; O disappoint
me not,
never let my foes triumph
over me.

3 May none who wait for thee be
disappointed,
but those alone who wan-
tonly abjure thee.

4 Let me see thy ways, O thou
Eternal,

teach me what are thy paths,

5 lead me, as thou art true to
thy word,

teach me, for thou art God
my help.

6 Remember thy compassion and
thy kindness,
for they are thine of old, O
thou Eternal;

7 remember not my faults of
youth,

and in remembering my sins
be kind to me.

8 Kind and upright is the Eternal,
he teaches any who go astray,
9 guiding humble souls aright,

teaching humble souls his
way;

kindly and faithfully he ever 10
deals

with those who keep his
compact and commands.

O thou Eternal, as thou art 11
thyself,

pardon my guilt, for it is great.

Whoever reverences the Eter- 12
nal, learns

what is the right course to
take;

his own life shall continue pros- 13
perous,

and his posterity shall hold
their land.

Those who revere the Eternal 14
have his confidence;

his compact is to instruct
them.

Mine eyes always are on the 15
Eternal,

for he will clear me from
perplexities.

Turn to me and have pity, 16
for I am lonely and low;

relieve the anguish of my heart, 17
free me from all this pressure.

Confront my foes, for they are 19
many,

and they hate me cruelly.

Consider my distress and pain, 18
and pardon all my sins.

Preserve me and deliver me, 20

O disappoint me not, as I
take shelter with thee.

May my devotion and my loy- 21
alty preserve me,

for I am waiting for thyself,
O thou Eternal.

[[O God, bring Israel safe out 22
of all its troubles.]]

26

A song of David.

Right me, O thou Eternal, for 1
my life is right;

my trust in the Eternal never
wavers.

- 2 Test me, O thou Eternal, try me,
prove me, in heart and mind.
- 3 I have looked always to thy
love,
I have lived loyal to thee;
- 4 I never joined false men,
I would not be seen with
hypocrites,
- 5 I hate the wicked party,
I never would join the un-
godly;
- 6 but blamelessly I wash my
hands
and move around thine altar,
O Eternal.
- 8 I love the precincts of thy house,
the mansion of thy majesty;
- 7 I love to sing my thanks aloud
and tell of all thy wonders.
- 9 Sweep me not away with sinful
men,
slay me not with the blood-
thirsty,
- 10 whose hands are stained with
outrage,
their right hands full of
bribes.
- 11 But my own life is right;
so do thou save me and be
gracious to me.
- 12 And when my foot rests on the
temple floor,
then will I bless the Eternal
in the choir.

27

A song of David.

- 1 The Eternal is my light and aid;
whom shall I fear?
The Eternal is the fortress of
my life;
whom shall I dread?
- 2 When evil men assail me
with their slanders,
'tis they, my enemies and foes,
who stumble to their fall.
- 3 Even though an army were
arrayed against me,
my heart would not be afraid;

though war were waged on me,
still would I be confident.

One thing alone I ask from the 4
Eternal,
one thing I desire.
a vision of the Eternal's good-
ness
in the temple at the morning-
hour.

For he hides me within his own 5
pavilion
on the day of trouble,
he shelters me within his shrine,
he sets me safe upon a rock.

He will now lift me up to vic- 6
tory,
high over all my foes around;
and I will sacrifice within his
shrine,
and make my joy resound.

* * *

O thou Eternal, listen to my cry, 7
be gracious to me, answer me.
"Tis my heart calling, "Thy face 8
I do seek."

O thou Eternal, hide not thy 9
face from me,
turn not thy servant away in
anger;
help me, do not abandon me,
forsake me not, O God my
saviour.

(When my father and mother 10
forsake me,
the Eternal will take care of
me.)

Teach me what is thy way, O 11
thou Eternal,
and lead me by a level road;
let not my foes thwart me;
leave me not to the fury of my 12
foes,
for false witnesses have started
up against me,
breathing injury to me.

I do believe I shall yet see 13
the Eternal good to me, in the
land of the living.

14 Wait for the Eternal; be strong,
my soul, be brave;
yes, wait for the Eternal.

28

A song of David.

1 O thou my Strength, I call to
thee, be not deaf to me;
lest, if thou art deaf, I droop
like a dying man.

2 Listen to my voice of pleading
as I cry to thee,
as I lift my hands thus toward
thy sacred shrine.

3 Drag me not off with the un-
godly, with wrongdoers,
who speak smoothly to their
fellows, with evil in their
hearts;

4 requite them for their evil prac-
tices, for their misdeeds,
let them have all they deserve
for all they have done.

5 [[Since they heed not what the
Eternal has in hand,
and never see what he is doing,
he pulls them down, he does
not build them up.]]

6 Blessed be the Eternal, who has
listened to my voice of
pleading!

7 The Eternal is my strength and
shield, my heart has faith in
him;

so I am helped, my heart exults,
and I sing to his praise,

8 to the Eternal, the strength of
his people, a saving strong-
hold for his chosen.

9 Save thy people, bless thine
heritage,
shepherd them and carry them
for ever.

29

A song of David.

1 Praise the Eternal, O ye angels,

praise the Eternal for his might
and glory!

Praise the Eternal for his open 2
glory,
worship the Eternal in festal
attire!

The voice of the Eternal peals 3
across the waters—
it is the God of glory thun-
dering,

the Eternal pealing over the
mighty waters,
the mighty voice of the Eternal, 4
the majestic voice of the
Eternal!

The voice of the Eternal shat- 5
ters cedars,
the Eternal shatters Lebâ-
non's cedars.

till Lebânon leaps like a calf, 6
and Sirion like an antelope.

The voice of the Eternal splits 7
the rocks,
splits them with flashes of fire;
the voice of the Eternal whirls 8
the sand,
the Eternal whirls the desert
of Kadesh.

The voice of the Eternal twists 9
the trees,
the voice of the Eternal strips
the forest—
while in his palace all are
chanting, "Glory!"

At the Flood the Eternal was 10
enthroned as King,
and King he sits for evermore,
bestowing strength upon his 11
people,
blessing his people with peace.

30

*For the dedication festival. A
song of David.*

I will extol thee, O Eternal, for 1
thou hast lifted me,
and hast not left my foes to
rejoice over me;

- 2 O thou Eternal my God, I called
for help to thee,
and thou hast made me re-
cover,
- 3 lifting me up, O thou Eternal,
from the world below,
calling me back to life from
the grave beneath.
- 4 Sing praise to the Eternal, ye
devout,
give thanks, as you recall his
sacred name;
- 5 for his anger only lasts a mo-
ment,
his favour lasts a lifetime;
tears may visit us at night,
but in the morning there are
shouts of joy.
- 6 When I was prospering, I
thought
I never would be shaken;
- 7 for by thy favour, O Eternal
One,
thou hadst set me on a strong
hill;
but when thy favour was with-
drawn
I fell into dismay.
- 8 I cried to thee, Eternal One,
appealing to my God,
- 9 "What profit would my death
be,
if I went down to the grave?
Can the dust of death praise
thee,
or testify thy faithfulness?
- 10 Ah listen, O Eternal One, be
gracious,
O thou Eternal, be my help!"
- 11 And thou didst change my
mourning into dancing,
stripping my sackcloth, gird-
ling me with joy,
- 12 that my soul might sing thy
praises without ceasing,
that I might thank thee, O my
God, for ever.

31

*From the Choirmaster's collection.
A song of David.*

- With thee, O thou Eternal, I 1
take shelter,
never let me be disappointed;
O rescue me, as thou art
faithful.
- Turn thine ear to me, 2
delay not to deliver me;
be a rock of refuge for me,
a hill-fort to protect me,
for thou art my crag and 3
castle.
- As thou art God, O lead me,
guide me,
safe from the snares spread 4
cunningly to catch me.
- Thou art my stronghold,
I put my life into thy hands, 5
and O Eternal, O thou faith-
ful God, thou savest me.
- Those who heed empty idols 6
thou wilt hate,
but I put my faith in the Eter-
nal.
- I will exult rejoicing in thy love, 7
who hast looked upon my
misery
and thought of my life in ad-
versity,
- who hast not left me in the 8
clutches of my foes,
but hast set me at liberty.
- Have pity on me, Eternal One; 9
I am in misery,
my health is wasting under
my woe,
my life is eaten away with sorrow, 10
and my years with sighing;
my strength gives way under my
punishment,
my body falls to pieces.
- I am the scorn of all my foes, 11
the butt of all my fellows;
my very friends are horrified,
men shun me in the street;
I am forgotten like a buried 12
corpse,

flung aside like a discarded
pot.

- 13 At every turn I am in terror,
for I hear many whisper-
ing,
men making plans against me,
plotting to take my life.
- 14 But on thee, O Eternal, I rely;
I say, "Thou art my God."
- 15 My fate lies in thy hands;
O rid me of my foes and my
pursuers,
- 16 smile on thy servant,
in thy love succour me.
- 17 On thee have I called, O Eter-
nal,
disappoint me not;
disappoint the wicked, send
them to the silent grave!
- 18 Strike dumb these lying lips,
so insolent in pride and scorn
against the just!
- 19 What wealth of kindness thou
hast laid up for thy wor-
shippers,
and shown to those who
shelter with thyself!
- 20 Thou hidest them under thy
wings from human plots,
thou shelterest them from the
scourge of slander!
- 21 Blessed be the Eternal,
for wondrous favour shown
me in a desperate plight.
- 22 In my distraction I cried
out,
"I am cast out of thy sight!"
But thou hast heard my loud
appeal,
when I called to thee for
help.
- 23 Ah, love the Eternal, all ye
faithful;
the Eternal will keep faith
with you,
and richly requite arrogant
men.
- 24 Only be strong, be brave,
all ye who wait for the Eter-
nal.

32

An ode of David.

- O the bliss of him whose guilt is 1
pardoned,
and his sin forgiven!
- O the bliss of him whom the 2
Eternal has absolved,
whose spirit has made full
confession!
- So long as I refused to own my 3
guilt,
I moaned unceasingly, life
ebbed away;
for thy hand crushed me night 4
and day,
my body dried up as in sum-
mer heat.
- Then did I own my sin to thee, 5
uncovering my iniquity;
and as I vowed I would confess,
thou didst remit my sinful
guilt.
- So let each loyal heart pray to 6
thee in trouble:
the floods may roar,
but they will never reach him,
for thou wilt be his shelter, 7
safeguarding him in peril,
surrounding him with aid.
- "I will instruct you and teach 8
you
what is the road to take;
I will give you counsel,
O humble soul."
- Be not like mules and colts, 9
that do not understand the
bridle,
unbroken creatures that require
a halter's curb,
or they will not come near
you.
- Many a pang falls to the un- 10
godly,
but he who trusts in the Eter-
nal shall enjoy his favour.

- 11 Exult then in the Eternal joy-
fully, ye just,
and shout for joy, all ye who
are upright.

33

- 1 Rejoice, ye just, in the Eternal,
for songs of praise befit the
upright soul.
2 Praise the Eternal on the lyre,
sing to him on a ten-stringed
lute.
3 Sing him a new song,
strike the strings bravely at
the festival.
4 For just are all the Eternal's
orders,
and all he does is loyally done;
5 he has a love for honesty and
justice,
the earth is full of his kind-
ness.
6 The heavens were made at the
Eternal's order,
and all their host by his mere
word;
7 he holds the seas as in a water-
skin,
and stores up the abysses of
the deep.
8 Let all the earth fear the Eter-
nal,
let every dweller stand in awe
of him,
9 for he it was who spoke—and
earth existed,
'twas at his bidding it ap-
peared.
10 The Eternal wrecks the purposes
of pagans,
he brings to nothing what the
nations plan;
11 but the Eternal's purpose stands
for ever,
and what he plans will last
from age to age.
12 Happy the nation whose God is
the Eternal,

the people he has chosen for
his own!

The Eternal looks from heaven, 13
beholding all mankind;
from where he sits he scans 14
all who inhabit the world;
he who alone made their minds, 15
he notes all that they do.
Armies do not bring victory to 16
a king,
the warrior is not rescued by
sheer strength;
cavalry are in vain for victory, 17
there is no winning by the
strength of that!
No, the Eternal's eye rests on 18
his worshippers,
who rest their hopes upon his
kindness,
that he may rescue them from 19
death,
and during famine-days keep
them alive.

And we rest our hopes on the 20
Eternal,
we wait for him, our help and
shield;
in him our heart rejoices, 21
our faith is in his sacred name.
Thy kindness rest upon us, O 22
Eternal,
as our hope rests in thee!

34

*A song of David when he feigned
madness before Abimelek,
who compelled him to go
away.*

I will bless the Eternal at all 1
times,
his praise shall be continually
on my lips;
my soul boasts openly of the 2
Eternal,
and the humble are glad as
they hear it.
Magnify the Eternal with me, 3
and let us exalt him together.

- 4 I besought the Eternal and he answered me,
 he rescued me from all my terrors;
 5 look to him, and you shall beam with joy,
 you shall never be abashed.
 6 Here is a poor man whose cry the Eternal heard,
 and helped him out of all his troubles.
 7 The angels of the Eternal camp around his worshippers,
 and rescue them.
 8 Try the Eternal; you will find he is kind;
 happy the man who takes shelter with him!
 9 Revere the Eternal, O ye saints of his,
 for the reverent never want for anything;
 10 apostates may be famishing and starving,
 but those who turn to the Eternal lack no good.
 11 Come, listen to me, my sons,
 I will teach you true religion.
 12 'Tis your desire to live,
 to live long and be happy?
 13 Then keep your tongue from evil,
 keep your lips from deceit;
 14 shun evil and do good,
 seek to be friendly—aim at that.
 16 For the Eternal sets his face against evildoers,
 to root their very name out of the earth;
 15 but the Eternal turns his eyes towards good men,
 his ears are open to their cry;
 17 when they cry, the Eternal listens,
 he rescues them from all their troubles.
 18 The Eternal is near the broken-hearted,
 and for crushed spirits he has help;
 the good man may have many a mishap,
 but from them all the Eternal rescues him.
 He guards every bone of him,
 not one is broken.
 Misfortune is the death of wicked men,
 and haters of good men are doomed;
 but the Eternal saves his servants' life,
 none who take shelter with him shall be punished.
- 35
- A song of David.*
- Fight those who fight me, O thou Eternal,
 war on those who war on me;
 seize thy shield and buckler, stand up as my champion,
 draw thy spear and battle-axe, to cope with my pursuers,
 say to me, O Eternal,
 "I am your safety."
 Disgraced, discomfited, be they who seek my life!
 May they be routed and confounded,
 who aim to injure me!
 Scattered be they like chaff before the wind,
 driven by thine angel!
 Dark and slippery be their road, pursued by thine angel!
 For wantonly they spread their net for me,
 they dug a pitfall wantonly for me.
 May the net they spread ensnare themselves,
 into their own pit may they fall,
 surprised by ruin!
 Then shall my soul rejoice in the Eternal,
 joyful at his deliverance.
 All my being shall exclaim,

- "O thou Eternal, who is like thee,
 O rescuer of the weak from a stronger power,
 O rescuer of the wretched from the destroyer!"
 11 Malicious accusers come forward,
 charging me with crimes I know naught of;
 12 they repay me with evil for good,
 rendering me all forlorn.
 13 When they were ill, I wore the sackcloth,
 I went humbly fasting,
 I prayed for them, with head bent on my breast,
 14 as for a friend, as for my brother;
 downcast was I, in black I dressed,
 like a man mourning for his mother.
 15 And now, when I fall, they are glad,
 and gather to attack me with cruel, cutting charges,
 of which I know nothing,
 railing at me unceasingly, reviling,
 16 mocking me, gnashing at me with their teeth!
 17 How long wilt thou look on at this?
 Save me from their loud lies,
 O thou Eternal,
 save my unhappy life from human lions!
 18 Then shall I give thanks to thee in our assembly,
 and praise thee in our throng of worshippers.
 19 Let not my foes rejoice over me wrongfully,
 let not my wanton haters wink maliciously!
 20 No words of peace are theirs,
 but crafty plots against the peaceable;
 wide-mouthed, they are taunting me,
 shouting, "Aha! Aha! we see his plight!"
 Eternal One, thou seest it; keep not silence;
 Lord, keep not far away;
 rouse thyself, wake to do me justice,
 to defend my cause, my God;
 do me justice, as thou art just thyself,
 that they may never rejoice over me,
 shouting, "Aha! Aha! we have our heart's desire,
 we have done for him!"
 Disgraced, confounded, may they be
 who delight in my harm!
 Shame and dishonour cover those who are insolent to me!
 But may they shout for joy, may they be glad,
 who love to see me righted!
 May they have ever cause to say,
 "All hail to the Eternal,
 who loves to see his servant prospering!"
 Then shall my tongue talk all the day
 of thy justice and thy praise.

36

*From the Choirmaster's collection.
 A song of David.*

- An impious spirit inspires the ungodly man;
 there is no fear of God before his eyes.
 He flatters himself that his iniquity will never be found out.
 His words are mischievous and deceitful,
 he has now ceased to live wisely and well;
 he plans some mischief as he lies in bed,

and then he takes a course that
is not good—
he loathes not evil.

* * *

5 Eternal One, thy love is high as
heaven,
thy loyalty soars to the very
skies,

6 thy justice is like mighty moun-
tains,
thy judgments are like the
deep sea.

Thy providence is over man and
beast;

7 how precious is thy love, O
God!

To thee men come for shelter
in the shadow of thy wings;

8 they have their fill of choice
food in thy house,
the stream of thy delights to
drink;

9 for life's own fountain is within
thy presence,
and in thy smile we have the
light of life.

10 Continue thy love to those who
care for thee,
thy justice to right-minded
men.

11 Never let insolence stir a foot
against us,
let no ungodly hand drive us
afar.

12 Yonder they lie, the evildoers,
felled to the earth, unable to
arise!

37

A song of David.

1 Fret not over evildoers,
envy not the lawless;
2 soon like the grass they fade,
and wither like a green blade.

3 Trust in the Eternal and do right,
be loyal to him within his
land;

4 make the Eternal your delight,
and he will give you all your
heart's desire.

Leave all to him, rely on him, 5
and he will see to it,
he will bring your innocence to 6
light,
and make the justice of your
cause clear as noonday.

Leave it to the Eternal and be 7a
patient,
fret not over the successful
man,
who aims to slay the upright, 14
and carries out his wicked 7b
plan.

Cease your anger, give up 8
raging,
fret not—it only leads to evil.
Evildoers shall be rooted out, 9
and the land left to those who
wait for the Eternal.

A little longer, and the godless 10
will be gone;
look in his haunts, and he is
there no more!
The land will be left to the 11
humble,
to enjoy plenteous prosperity.

The godless man makes plots 12
against the good,
gnashing his teeth at them;
but the Eternal laughs at him, 13
knowing his doom is near.

The godless draw the sword, 14
and bend their bows for
murder;
the sword runs into their own 15
heart,
and their bows shall be
broken!

The little that a good man has 16
is better than a godless man's
great wealth;
for the arms of the godless shall 17
be broken,
but the Eternal will protect
the good.

- 18 The fortunes of the upright are
the Eternal's care,
and their possessions last for
ever;
- 19 in a calamity they keep their
share,
in famine they have plenty.
- 20a The godless perish,
25c their families have to beg for
food;
- 20b the foes of the Eternal disappear
like fuel,
they disappear in smoke and
vanish.
- 21 The godless never pays back
what he borrows,
but the good man is chari-
table and gives.
- 22 Those who bless the Eternal,
they shall own the land;
those who curse him shall be
uprooted.
- 23 When a man's life pleases the
Eternal,
he gives him a sure footing;
24 he may fall, but he never falls
down,
for the Eternal holds him by
the hand.
- 25 I have been young and I am old,
but never have I seen good
men forsaken;
- 26 they always have something to
give away,
something wherewith to bless
their families.
- 27 Shun evil and do good,
so shall you live your life
within the land;
- 28 for the Eternal, who loves
honesty,
never forsakes his faithful
band.
- The lawless shall be utterly
destroyed,
- the families of the godless
shall be doomed;
the land is the possession of the 29
good,
and all their days they shall
dwell there.
- The good man's words are wise, 30
his talk is just;
the Eternal's law is in his heart, 31
his footsteps never falter.
- The godless man spies on the 32
good,
seeking to have them put to
death;
but the Eternal never leaves 33
them in his power,
nor lets them be condemned
when they are tried.
- Wait for the Eternal, hold to him, 33
and he will save you from the 40
godless;
he will advance you to possess 34
the land,
and to see godless men exter-
minated.
- I saw a godless man once on a 35
time, a terror—
towering like any cedar of
Lebānon;
then, as I passed by, he was 36
gone!
I looked for him—he was not
to be found.
- Hold to integrity, remain up- 37
right;
there is a future for the peace-
able.
But sinners shall be wiped out at 38
a blow;
the future for the godless is
perdition.
- Help comes from the Eternal to 39
good men;
he is their refuge in the evil
hour:

40athe Eternal relieves them and
rescues them,
because they shelter beside
him.

38

*A song of David. To be used
when incense is offered.*

- 1 Punish me not in wrath, O thou
Eternal,
do not chastise me in a rage!
- 2 Thine arrows have sunk deep in
me,
thy hand is pressing hard on
me.
- 3 There is no soundness in my
body,
thanks to thine indignation;
there is no health in my limbs,
thanks to my sins.
- 4 My iniquities are overwhelming
me,
crushing me like a heavy load.
- 5 My wounds are foul and fester-
ing,
thanks to my sinful folly.
- 6 I stagger about, bent to the
ground,
all day long I go a-mourning.
- 7 for my thighs are full of
fever,
there is no soundness in my
body;
- 8 I am benumbed and badly
bruised,
my moans are louder than a
lion's cry.
- 9 Lord, all my longing is well
known to thee,
thou art no stranger to my
sighs;
- 10 my heart is throbbing, pith has
gone from me,
the light has left mine eyes.
- 11 My friends and my companions
hold aloof,
my kinsmen keep away.
- 12 Those who seek my life are
setting snares,
aiming to injure me;

they talk of ruining me,
and all the day discuss in-
trigues.

But, like a deaf man, I never 13
listen,

like a dumb man, I never say
a word.

[[I am like one who never hears, 14
who has no argument in
answer.]]

For thee, O thou Eternal, I am 15
waiting;
thou, thou wilt answer them,
O Lord my God.

For I confess my guilt, 18
I sorrow for my sin.

"Only," I say, "let not my foes 16
exult over me,
who are so insolent when I
slip."

For I am on the verge of a 17
collapse;
my plight is always present to
my mind.

Many are they who hate me 19
wantonly,
many are they who hate me
wrongfully;

they are returning evil for good, 20
they are my foes because I
aim at good.

Forsake me not, O thou Eternal, 21
be not far from me, O my
God;

make haste to help me, 22
to rescue me, O Lord.

39

*From the Choirmaster Jeduthun's
collection. A song of David.*

I said, I will be careful what I 1
do,

lest I sin with my tongue;
I must put a muzzle on my lips
in presence of the ungodly.

So I kept silence, 2
dumb and ill at ease.

But this only stirred my grief;
my heart grew hot within me, 3

- my thoughts kindled,
and I prayed:
- 4 "O thou Eternal, let me know
my end,
the number of my days,
how long I have to live!
- 5 Thou hast made my days no
longer than a span;
my life is a mere nothing, in
thy sight,
no better than an empty
breath.
- 6 Man's busy life indeed is but a
phantom,
making an empty ado,
amassing wealth and knowing
not who is to have his hoard.
- 7 What then can I expect, O
Lord?
It is in thee I hope.
- 9 I am dumb, I never say a word,
for it is thou who orderest
life so.
- 11 Thou chastenest mortal man,
in punishing his guilt,
eating away his comeliness like
a moth—
man is no better than an
empty breath!
- 8 Save me from all my sins,
from the taunts of the pro-
fane;
- 10 relieve me from thy plague,
for I am wasting underneath
thy strokes.
- 12 Hear my prayer, O thou Eternal,
listen to my cry,
answer thou my tears;
for I am but a guest of thine,
a passing waif, as all my
fathers were.
- 13 Avert thy frown, that I may be
at ease,
ere I depart and be no more."
- he turned and listened to my
cry;
he raised me from a lonesome 2
pit, a muddy bog,
he set my foot on a rock and
steadied my steps;
he put a new song in my mouth, 3
a song of praise to our God,
that many might see this, and
be awed,
and trust in the Eternal.
- Happy the man who trusts in 4
the Eternal,
who pays no heed to loud and
false apostates!
- Eternal One, my God, richly 5
hast thou worked out
thy wondrous purposes for us;
there is no one like thee!
- Were I to tell them, to recount
them,
they would pass all count.
- Thou carest not for sacrifice and 6
offering,
for no burnt-offering or sin-
offering is thy demand.
- An open ear thou gavest me;
I answered, "Here I come 7
to do thy bidding in the
Book;
to please and serve thee is my 8
joy,
thy law lies deep within my
heart."
- Thou knowest, Eternal One, 9
that openly
I told the good news to our
gathering;
- I kept not to myself thy saving 10
help,
but told aloud thy loyalty and
aid,
making no secret of thy love
and faithfulness.
- And thou wilt not keep back 11
from me thy mercy,
thy love and faithfulness shall
ever be my guard.

40

*From the Choirmaster's col-
lection. A song of David.*

- 1 As I waited patiently for the
Eternal,

- 12 [[For numberless evils surround
me;
my transgressions have over-
taken me,
till I know not where to turn;
more trials have I than hairs
upon my head—
my courage fails me.
- 13 Be pleased to rescue me, O thou
Eternal,
O thou Eternal, hasten to my help.
- 14 Disgraced, discomfited, be those
who seek to murder me!
Routed, dishonoured, be they
who delight in harm to me!
- 15 Thwarted and appalled be they
who taunt me with their
scoffs!
- 16 But may thy followers all re-
joice gladly in thee!
May those who love thy saving
help have ever cause to say,
"All hail to the Eternal!"
- 17 As for me, I am weak and
wretched;
Yet the Eternal will take
thought for me.
Thou art my help and my de-
liverer;
tarry not, O my God.]]

41

*From the Choirmaster's col-
lection. A song of David.*

- 1 Happy is he who remembers the
weak and the poor!
The Eternal will deliver him
on the day of trouble;
- 2 the Eternal will preserve his life,
nor hand him over to his eager
foes;
- 3 the Eternal sustains him on his
sick bed,
and brings him back to health.
- 4 My prayer is: "O Eternal, be
thou gracious,
heal me, for I have sinned
against thee."
- 5 My foes say of me, in their
malice,

"Whenever will he die and
his name perish?"
When any of them visits me, 6
his heart is false;
he gathers matter for his malice,
then goes away to spread the
tale.

All who hate me whisper to- 7
gether,
forecasting evil for me;
"A deadly trouble courses in 8
his veins,
he will not rise from where he
lies."

And even my trusted friend, 9
who ate my bread,
trips me up heavily.
Be gracious, O Eternal, let me rise, 10
and I will pay them back!
I shall be sure that thou carest 11
for me,
when my foe fails to triumph
over me.

Yes, thou revivest me, for my 12
integrity,
setting me down for ever in
thy presence.

[[Blessed be the Eternal, Israel's 13
God,
from age to age for ever!
Even so, even so!]]

42

*From the Choirmaster's col-
lection. An ode of the
Korahites.*

The deer is panting for a stream, 1
and I am panting, O God, for
thee.

I am athirst for God, the living 2
God;
when shall I reach God's pres-
ence?

Day and night I have lived on 3
my tears,
taunted all day with, "Where
is your God?"

My soul is melting with secret 4
sorrow,
for well I remember it all—

how I led the throng once to the
house of God,
5 chanting, praising, marching
in full festival.
6 Why are you downcast, O
my soul?
Why so despairing?
7 Wait, wait for God; I shall
again
be praising him, my sav-
ing help, my God.

8 My soul is downcast; so I re-
member thee
in this far land of Jordan and
of Hermon,
at mount Mizar.
9 Flood follows flood, as thy cata-
racts thunder,
thy breakers and billows are
all surging over me.
10 [[Yet the Eternal summoned
once for me his love by
day,
and in the night I sang of him,
praising the God of my
life.]]
11 To God my strength I cry,
"Why hast thou forgotten
me?
Why must I mourn, as foes
oppress me?"
12 It is an agony to hear them in
derision
taunting me all day with,
"Where is your God?"
13 Why are you downcast, O
my soul?
Why so despairing?
14 Wait, wait for God; I shall
again
be praising him, my
saving help, my God.

43 Right me, take my part, O God,
against an impious
race,
rescue me from crafty and
malignant men.
2 O God my stronghold, why dis-
card me?

Why must I mourn, as foes
oppress me?
O send thy light and faithful-
ness to lead me,
to bring me home to thine
own sacred hill,
to where thou dwellest!
Let me come to the altar of God, 4
to God my joy and delight,
singing thy praise on the
lyre, O God, my God.
Why are you downcast, O 5
my soul?
Why so despairing?
Wait, wait for God; I shall 6
again
be praising him, my sav-
ing help, my God.

44

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion of Korahite songs. An
ode.*

O God, we have heard with our 1
ears,
our fathers have told us the
tale,
of thy doings in ancient years,
how thou didst plant them, 2
evicting the pagans,
how thou didst shatter the
nations and scatter them.
For the land was not won by 3
the sword of our fathers,
nor the victory won by their
arm;
thine was the hand and the
arm,
thine was the favour that
smiled on them;
my King, my God, it was thou 4
by whose command Jacob
was conqueror.
By thee we can thrust down 5
our foe,
by thee we can crush our
attackers;
for I rely not on my bow, 6
'tis not my sword that wins
the battle;

- 7 from thee the victory comes to
 us,
 the humbling to our haters;
 8 all day it is of God we boast,
 unceasingly we praise thee.
 9 And yet thou hast discarded us
 in disgrace,
 thou wilt not march with our
 armies,
 10 thou makest us fly from the foe,
 till our haters plunder us at
 pleasure;
 11 thou lettest us be eaten up like
 sheep,
 thou scatterest us among the
 pagans,
 12 selling thy people cheap,
 for a poor price—no profit to
 thyself!
 13 Thou makest us the butt of our
 neighbours,
 a scorn and derision to all
 around,
 14 a byword among pagans,
 jeered at by the nations;
 15 all day long the disgrace is be-
 fore me,
 the shame of it overclouds me,
 16 at the sound of the taunters
 and scoffers,
 at the sight of the vengeful
 foe.
 17 All this has come upon us,
 yet we never have forgotten
 thee,
 never were false to thy bond;
 18 our heart has never flinched,
 our steps have never swerved
 from thine own road,
 19 that thou should'st so crush us,
 and plunge us into deathly
 gloom,
 where jackals howl.
 20 If we had forgotten the name
 of our God,
 or appealed to a foreign
 god,
 21 would not God have found it
 out?
- He knows the very secrets of
 the heart.
 But no, 'tis for thy sake we are 22
 killed all day,
 counted no better than sheep
 to be slaughtered.
 Bestir thyself, Eternal One! 23
 Why sleep?
 Awaken! ah, discard us not
 for ever!
 Why art thou hiding thy face, 24
 forgetting our woe and dis-
 tress?
 For our soul is bowed to the 25
 dust,
 our body lies low on the
 ground,
 Come to the rescue! 26
 For thy love's sake, O save us.
- 45
- From the Choirmaster's collec-
 tion of Korahite songs. To
 the tune of "The Lilies."
 An ode or love-song.*
- A noble theme inspires my soul! 1
 Let me recite my verses to
 the king,
 with tongue as swift as a
 scribe's nimble pen.
 You are fairer than all mortals, 2
 charm is playing on your lips,
 as you are ever blessed by
 God.
 O hero, gird your sword upon 3
 your thigh,
 array yourself in splendour
 and in state.
 Success to you, as you ride forth 4
 to succour loyal men, humble
 and just!
 And may your courage lead
 to deeds of dread!
 Sharp are your arrows; nations 5
 fall before you,
 and the king's foes lose heart.
 Your throne shall stand for 6
 evermore;

- for, since your sceptre is a
sceptre just,
7 since right you love and evil
you abhor,
so God, your God, crowns
you with bliss
above your fellow-kings.
- 8 Fragrant are your robes with
orris, myrrh, and aloes;
music of ivory harps is rav-
ishing your heart;
9 king's daughters in their jewels
move to meet you,
and on your right your queen
wears gold of Ophir.
- 10 Listen, O bride, and bend your
ear!
Forget your own folk and
your father's house;
11 and when the king desires your
beauty,
yield to him—he is your
lord.
- 12 So Tyrian traders with their
gifts shall sue your fa-
vour,
the wealthiest in the land
shall offer you their treas-
ures.
- 13 In pearls and gold embroidery
this daughter of a king is
decked;
14 she is led to the king in col-
oured robes,
with the maidens of her
train,
15 moving into the palace of the
king
with gladness and rejoicing.
- 16 Your sons shall step into your
fathers' place,
and rise to be princes over all
the land,
17 carrying your name on from
age to age,
till nations praise you ever-
more.

46

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion of Korahite songs. For
soprano voices.*

- God is a shelter and strong- 1
hold for us,
we shall find him very near;
therefore we never fear, 2
though earth be overset,
and the hills sink deep in the
sea.
- Let billows roar and foam, 3
let mountains shake under
the storm:
the Lord of Hosts is at our
side,
the God of Jacob is our
fortress.

- The river divine has streams 4
that gladden
the city of God,
the sacred shrine of the Most
High.
- God is within her, she cannot 5
be shaken;
when morning comes, God is
her aid.
- Though nations rage, and 6
realms be shaken,
though his thunders make
the world dissolve:
the Lord of Hosts is at our 7
side,
the God of Jacob is our
fortress.

- Come, see the Eternal's work, 8
the desolation he has wrought
on earth;
wars he has ended all over the 9
world,
breaking the bow and snap-
ping the spear,
burning the chariot in the
fire.
- "Give in," he cries, "admit that 10
I am God,
high over nations, high over
the world."

- 11 The Lord of Hosts is at
our side,
the God of Jacob is our
fortress.

47

From the Choirmaster's collection of Korahite songs.

- 1 All nations, clap your hands,
with ringing homage to God;
2 for the Eternal, the Most High,
is to be feared,
he is a great king over all the
world.
3 He subdued nations to himself,
he conquered races,
4 and chose our heritage for us,
our land, the jewel of his be-
loved Jacob;
5 he marched in amid shouts,
with trumpet-blasts

- 6 Music of praise for God, sing
music!

Music of praise for our King!

- 7 Music of praise with an ode,
for over the whole world God
is King!

- 8 God now reigns over the nations,
seated on his sacred throne;

- 9 even foreign princes gather,
joining the folk of Abraham's
God;

for the world's warriors belong
to God,

to the supreme God, sovereign
of the world.

48

*A song for the Korahites, for
music.*

- 1 Great is the Eternal, loudly to
be praised

within the city of our God,
' upon his sacred hill.

- 2 High and fair on the northern
slope,

the joy of all the world,
the hill of Zion lies,

the city of the great King.

Within her citadels has God
shown himself her defence.

For yonder kings combined,
invaded her;

but scared with panic at her
sight,

they took to flight,
seized with a shudder,

like women in the pangs of
labour,

shattered like merchantmen
wrecked by an east wind.

What once we heard of, now
our eyes have seen

within the city of the Lord of
hosts;

God does preserve it ever-
more,

the city of our God.

And so within thy temple we
are thinking

of thy goodness, O God;
thy fame shall echo, like thy
name,

to the very ends of earth,

for thy right hand is full of
victories.

Let Zion hill rejoice,

let the towns of Judah joy,

over thy saving deeds.

Walk about Zion, go round her,

count up her towers,

review her ramparts,

scan her citadels,

that you may tell the age to
come

what a God our God is for
evermore.

49

From the Choirmaster's collection of Korahite songs.

Hear this, all ye nations,

listen, all ye inhabitants of
the world,

low-born and high,

rich and poor, all of you.

My message will be wise and
good,

- a baffling truth on which I brood;
 4 and as I catch its meaning dim,
 I render on the lyre this hymn:
- 5 Why should I be afraid when
 times are bad,
 and all around I see my
 treacherous foes.
- 6 men who rely upon their riches,
 and boast of their abounding
 wealth?
- 7 Why, none can buy himself off;
 not one can purchase for a
 price from God
- 9 life that shall never end.
- 10 What! "Never die?" but die
 they must—
 the clever have to die,
 the stupid and the senseless
 perish,
 leaving their money to others;
- 11 their home eternal is the grave
 below,
 the dwelling where they must
 abide;
 they vanish from men's mem-
 ory, although
 they claimed lands for their
 own.
- 12 For all the splendour that they
 cherish,
 men pass, even as the beasts
 that perish.
- 13 Such is the fate of the self-
 satisfied,
 the end of all whose faith is
 in themselves;
- 14 death shepherds them un-
 checked,
 driving them down to the
 world below;
 ere long their form and fashion
 waste away,
 and they abide within the
 world below.
- 15 (But God can ransom me;
 he will release me from the
 grasp of death.)
- So fear not when a man grows 16
 rich,
 and when the splendour of
 his house increases;
 he can take nothing with him 17
 when he dies.
 his splendour will not follow
 him below.
- In life he flatters himself on his 18
 fortune,
 praising himself for his pros-
 perity;
- but down he goes to where his 19
 fathers dwell,
 who see no light to all eter-
 nity.
- For all the splendour that they 20
 cherish,
 men pass, even as the beasts
 that perish.
- 50
- An Asaphite song.*
- The Eternal speaks!—from east 1
 to west
 earth falls a-trembling.
- From Sion, so peerless in 2
 beauty,
 the God of gods is flashing!
- Our God comes with a sum- 3
 mons—
 in front of him devouring
 fire,
 encircling him a mighty
 storm—
- calling high heaven and earth 4
 to the trial of his people;
 the heavens announce his assize, 6
 that God begins the trial.
- "Gather me my followers, 5
 who pledged their troth to
 me by sacrifice.
- Listen, O my people, 7
 let me speak, O Israel.
 I would testify against you,
 I who am God, your God.
- I blame you not for lack of 8
 sacrifice;

- daily your offerings are put
before me.
- 9 I need no bullock from your
farms,
no goat out of your herds;
- 10 for all the wild things of the
wood are mine,
and cattle in their thousands
on the hills;
- 11 every bird in the air I know,
I own all roaming creatures on
the plains.
- 12 If I were hungry, I would not
tell you:
for the whole earth is mine
and all it holds.
- 13 Do I eat flesh of bulls?
Do I drink blood of goats?
- 14 No, offer to God thanks as a
sacrifice,
and pay your vows to the
Most High;
- 15 call to me in your-hour of need,
then I will rescue you, and
you shall honour me."
- 16 God speaks thus to the godless:
"What right have you to repeat
my laws,
and take my compact on
your lips,
- 17 when you hate me to control
you,
and toss my rules behind
your backs?
- 18 You are a friend to any thief
you see,
you ally yourselves with adul-
terers,
- 19 you let your tongue loose for
the evil word,
your mouths are weaving
malice,
- 20 you sit and you malign your
brother,
slandering the son of your
own mother.
- 21 This you have done, and be-
cause I said nothing
you thought I was no better
than yourself!

But I will now convict you,
I will put it to you plainly.
Mark this, you who ignore me, 22
or I will tear you to pieces,
with none to protect you:
whoever offers thanks to me as 23
sacrifice,
he honours me;
whoever holds by my rules in
his life,
I will let him enjoy my help."

51

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. A song of David, when
the prophet Nathan came to
him, after he had visited
Bathsheba.*

O God, as thou art kind, have 1
mercy on me,
in thy vast pity wipe out my
offences,
wash me from every stain of guilt, 2
and purge me from my sin.

Well do I know my offences; 3
my sin is never out of mind.
It is against thee I have sinned, 4
I have done evil in thy sight.
Yes, thou art just in thy charge,
and justified in thy sentence.
Ah! 'twas in guilt that I was 5
born,

'twas in sin that my mother
conceived me.
'Tis inward truth that thou 6
desirest,
grant me then wisdom in my
secret heart.

Purge me clean with marjoram, 7
wash me whiter than snow;
fill me with gladness and re- 8
joicing,
that the life thou hast crushed
may thrill with joy;
hide thy face from my sins, 9
and wipe out all my guilt;
make me a clean heart, O God, 10
and put a new, steadfast
spirit in me;

- 11 banish me not from thy presence,
deprive me not of thy sacred spirit,
12 gladden me with thy saving aid again,
and give me a willing spirit as my strength,
13 that I may teach offenders how thou dealest,
till sinful men turn back to thee.
- 14 O God my saviour, save me from mortal sin,
and my tongue shall praise thy faithfulness aloud.
15 O thou Eternal, open thou my lips,
till my mouth makes thy praises known.
16 Thou carest not for sacrifice,
thou wouldst not have burnt-offerings from me;
17 God's sacrifice is a soul with its evil crushed:
a heart broken with penitence never wilt thou despise.
- 18 Grant happiness to Sion by building up Jerusalem's walls again;
19 then wilt thou welcome the due sacrifices,
and on thine altar bullocks shall be slain.

52

From the Choirmaster's collection. An ode sung by David when Doeg the Edomite went away and told Saul that David had gone to the house of Ahimelek.

- 1 Why glory in your malice, O you tyrant,
against the faithful day by day?
2 You plan their utter ruin,
your tongue like a whetted razor,
you deceitful schemer!

- Evil you prefer to good,
falsehood to honesty;
you revel in deadly speech,
you and your sly tongue!
But God will pull you down
for that,
he will snatch you right away,
he will dislodge you,
and root you out of the land
of the living.
- Good men shall see it and be
awed,
then shall they laugh at him
and cry,
"So this was the great man
who would not upon God rely,
but leant on his abundant
wealth,
and on his power of money!"
But like an olive green am I,
living within the house of
God;
upon God's kindness I rely,
for ever and for evermore.
I will praise thee for all that
thou hast done,
I will declare how good thou
art,
in presence of thy followers.

53

From the Choirmaster's collection. To the tune of "Suffering." An ode of David.

- Profane men think,
"There is no God!"
Depraved their lives are and
detestable,
not one of them does right.
- God looks from heaven
upon mankind,
to see if any have the sense
to care for God.
- But all have lapsed,
one and all are tainted,
not one does what is right,
no, not a single one.

4 Shall they not rue it, these rascals,

who devour my people with
their extortion?

5 Ha! here they are in a panic!

God scatters them;
their evil plan is defeated,
for God spurns them.

6 [[O that Israel's deliverance
would come from Zion!

When God restores the for-
tunes of his people,
how Jacob will exult,
how glad will Israel be!]]

54

From the Choirmaster's collection. To a string accompaniment. An ode sung by David when the Ziphites went and told Saul that David was hiding among them.

1 O God, help me with thy
might,
as thou art strong, uphold my
right;

2 O God, hear my prayer,
and listen to my plea.

3 Proud creatures are assailing
me,
and ruthless men would mur-
der me,
men who care nothing for
God.

4 Ah, God my helper,
ah, Lord, upholder of my
life,

5 may evil recoil upon my
foes!

O Lord, be true to me and
crush them!

6 Then gladly will I sacrifice to
thee,
with praise for all thy good-
ness,

7 when thou hast rescued me
from all my woes,
and let me feast mine eyes
on my defeated foes.

55

From the Choirmaster's collection. To a string accompaniment. An ode of David.

Listen to my prayer, O God, 1
hide not from my entreaty;

heed me and answer 2
my bitter lament,

as I moan at the noise of the
foe,

at the shouts of godless men,
who overwhelm me with their 3
injuries,

setting upon me furiously.

My heart is throbbing in my 4
breast,

and anguish overpowers me,
terror and trembling seize on me, 5
and horror folds me round.

O for the wings of a dove 6
to fly away and be at rest!

Fain would I fly from it all, 7
and live in the desert;

swiftly would I escape 8
from the furious blast,

from all their storm and con-
fusion,

from their double tongues. 9
For here in the city I suffer the

sight
of violence and disorder
patrolling day and night 10
the very walls;

mischievous and misery are what I 11
see,

and corruption, in the street;
the market-place is never free
from fraud and guile.

It is not taunts of a foe— 12
that I could bear;

It is not an enemy's insolence—
then I could hide from him.

No, you are an equal of my 13
own,

my close companion and my
trusted friend!

Sweet was our fellowship to- 14
gether
within the house of God.

- 15 May he go to perdition!
Death seize all such!
May they go living to the
world below,
sweet off as their sins de-
serve!
- 20 For he laid hands upon his
friends,
profaning friendship's bond;
- 21 his talk was smother than but-
ter,
but his thoughts were of en-
mity;
his words were softer than oil,
yet sharp as a sword.
- 16 But as for me, I call to God,
and the Eternal helps me;
- 17 evening, morning, and at noon,
I moan and wail.
He will hear my cry and give
me
- 18 peace and freedom from this
strife,
from the host of foes around
me.
- 19 God will hear me,
God upon his ancient throne;
he will lay them low,
lax, lawless creatures,
with no reverence for God.
- 23 Thou wilt toss them deep into
the grave,
these murderers and liars;
they shall not live out half
their days,
but I will trust in thee.
- 22 Leave all to the Eternal, who
loves you;
never will he let good men
come to grief.
- pressing on me all day long, 2
many and malignant.
The day I am afraid, 3
I put my trust in thee.
By God's help I will maintain 4
my cause;
in God I trust without a fear:
what can man do to me?
- All day long they would injure 5
me,
ever plotting harm to me;
they are in league for evil, and 6
they lurk,
dogging my steps, like mur-
derers.
- Pay them back for their malice! 7
Down with these men of
power, O God, in anger!
- Thou countest up my sleepless 8
hours,
my tears are gathered in thy
bottle—
are they not noted in thy book?
God is upon my side; so I am sure 9
my foes must turn their back,
the day I call to him.
- By God's help I will maintain 10
my cause;
in God I trust without a fear: 11
what can man do to me?
- I am under vows to thee, O God; 12
I will pay thee my offering of
praise,
for thou hast saved my life 13
from death,
my feet from stumbling,
that I might live, ever mindful
of God,
in the sunshine of life.

56

*From the Choirmaster's collection.
To the tune of "Dove in isles
afar." A golden ode sung by
David when the Philistines
held him in Gath.*

- 1 Have pity upon me, O God;
for men trample me down,

57

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. To the tune of "De-
stroy it not." A golden ode
sung by David in the cave,
when he fled from Saul.*

- Have pity on me, O God, have 1
pity,
for with thee I take shelter;

- in the shadow of thy wings I
shelter,
till the deadly danger passes.
- 2 I call to God Most High,
to God who acts on my be-
half.
- 3 God send me help from heaven!
God send his love and loyalty,
discomfiting those who would
trample me down!
- 4 I have to live among lions,
who prey upon men;
their teeth are spears and ar-
rows,
their tongue is a sharp sword.
- 6 They set a net to catch my feet,
and they were caught in it
themselves;
they dug a pit in front of me,
and they fell into it!
- * * *
- 5 Up, O God, high over heaven!
Up with thy glory over all
the earth!
- 7 My heart is ready, ready, O
God,
for song and melody.
- 8 Awake, my soul! awake, my
lute and lyre!
Let me awake the dawn!
- 9 I would praise thee, Lord,
among the peoples,
I would chant thee among
the nations;
- 10 for thy love is high over heaven,
thy loyalty soars to the skies.
- 11 Up, O God, high over heaven!
Up with thy glory over all
the earth!

58

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. To the tune of "De-
stroy it not." A golden ode
of David.*

- 1 Is it indeed justice you decree?
Is it aright that you rule
men?
- 2 No, in secret you devise in-
justice.

- and on earth you deal out
violence.
- Evil men go astray from the 3
start,
false and erring from their
birth;
- their venom is like a viper's, 4
they are deaf as any cobra,
that will not listen to the 5
charmer's voice,
to the most cunning spell.
- Shatter their teeth, O God! 6
O thou Eternal, tear out the
young lions' fangs!
- May they vanish like a feshet, 7
may they be trodden down
like the green grass!
- May they melt like a snail as 8
it moves,
like an untimely birth, un-
seen by the sun!
- Ere ever your pot feels the 9
heat of the faggots,
may He sweep them away in
his fury!
- At the sight of such vengeance, 10
the good shall exult,
and bathe their feet in bad
men's blood;
- "Yes," men shall say, "the 11
good do get their due;
yes, a God rules on earth in-
deed!"

59

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. To the tune of "De-
stroy it not." A golden ode
sung by David when Saul
had the house watched, in
order to murder him.*

- O my God, rescue me from my 1
foes,
protect me from those who
assail me;
- rescue me from evildoers, 2
save me from bloodthirsty
men.
- Here they are, lurking to take 3
my life,
a fierce gang to attack me!

- And for no sin or crime of mine,
O thou Eternal, for no fault
of mine.
- 4 They run to their posts; O
rouse thyself,
rescue me, look to me!
- 5 O Lord of hosts,
O God of Israel, rouse thee,
punish the insolent, every one
of them,
spare not one vile traitor.
- 6 They snarl and snarl like dogs,
they prow! round the town in
the evening;
- 7 there they are, blustering, arro-
gant,
insults on their lips!—
for "Who," they think, "will
hear us?"
- 8 Thou, O Eternal, thou wilt
laugh at them,
wilt mock at all the insolent.
- 9 O thou my Strength, to thee I
sing,
for thou, Eternal, art my for-
tress.
- 10 God in his goodness come to
my rescue!
May the Eternal let me gloat
over my foes!
- 11 Pity them not, lest my people
forget;
rout them, ruin them, by thy
might,
O Lord who art shielding me.
- 12 Each word they utter is a sin;
so let their own pride trap
them,
for all their perjury and
false talk.
- 13 Destroy them in thy wrath,
destroy them,
till they cease to be;
let the world know from end to
end
that God does rule in Jacob.
- 14 They snarl and snarl like dogs,
and prow! at even round the
town,

roaming in search of prey, 15
and growling if they miss it.
But I sing of thy strength, 16
a morning song to thy love;
for thou art a fortress to me,
a refuge in my day of danger.
O thou my Strength, to thee I 17
sing,
for thou, Eternal, art my for-
tress.

60

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. To the tune of "Lily
of the Law." A golden ode
for recitation, sung by
David during the campaign
against Aram-naharaim and
Aramzobah, when Joab
wheeled round and defeated
twelve thousand Edomites in
the wady of Salt.*

Thou hast discarded us, crushed 1
us in anger, O God;
restore us to power:
thou hast shaken and shattered 2
the land;
repair its tottering breaches.
Hard times thou hast given to 3
thy people,
and a cup of drink that has
dazed them.
Hast thou given thy worship- 4
pers a flag,
only that they might fly from
the archers?

To the rescue of thy dear folk! 5
Save by thy right hand, an-
swer our entreaty,
O thou Eternal who hast dis- 10b
carded us, shamed us,
who wouldst not march out
with our army.
Help us against the foe, 11
for man's help is in vain.
With God we shall do bravely; 12
he will trample down our foes.

God gave his sacred promise: 6
"I will divide up Shechem in
triumph,

- and parcel out the vale of
Sukkoth;
7 Gilead is mine, Manasseh
mine,
Ephraim I take for helmet,
Judah for my baton,
8 Moab I make a wash-basin,
Edom I claim as subject,
and over Philistia I will
triumph."
9 Ah, who will lead us inside the
hill-fort?
Who will take us conquering
into Edom?
10a Will not thou, O God?

61

From the Choirmaster's collection. For strings. A song of David.

- 1 Hear my cry, O God,
and heed my prayer;
2 from earth's far end I call to
thee,
my heart is fainting.
When troubles are too strong
for me,
do thou direct me,
3 O thou who art my refuge,
a fortress against the foe.
4 O to be a guest of thine for
ever!
O to be sheltered underneath
thy wings!
5 For thou hearest my vows, O
God,
thou grantest the desire of
reverent men.
6 Add many a day to the life of
the king,
till his years are age on
age.
7 May he sit on his throne before
God for all time!
Bid thy love and loyalty safe-
guard him.
8 And I will ever sing thy
praise,
paying my vows through all
my days.

62

From the Choirmaster's collection. To Jeduthun's tune. A song of David.

- Leave it all quietly to God, my 1
soul,
my rescue comes from him
alone;
rock, rescue, refuge, he is all to 2
me,
never shall I be overthrown.
How long will you be threaten- 3
ing a man,
you murderers all,
as if he were a shaky fence,
a tottering wall?

- They plan to push me from my 4
place,
delighting in a crafty part;
blessings are on their lips,
and curses in their heart.

- Leave it all quietly to God, my 5
soul,
my rescue comes from him
alone;
rock, rescue, refuge, he is all to 6
me,
never shall I be overthrown.

- My safety and my honour rest 7
on God;
God is my strong rock and
refuge.
Always rely on him, my fol- 8
lowers,
pour out your prayers to
him;
God is a refuge for us.

- The lower ranks are but a thing 9
of naught,
the upper ranks are only a
delusion;
weigh them, they prove to be
lighter and slighter than a
breath of air.

- 10 Rely not on extortion,
 pride not yourselves on robbery;
 if wealth increases,
 set not your heart upon it.
- 11 There is one thing God has
 said;
 aye, twice have I heard him
 say it:
 that power belongs to God,
 and kindness, Lord, to thee;
 12 every man thou rewardest
 for whatever he has done.

63

*A song of David, when he was
 in the desert of Judah.*

- 1 O God, thou art my God, I
 yearn for thee;
 body and soul, I thirst, I long
 for thee,
 like a land without water,
 weary, dry.
- 2 As I have seen thee in the
 sanctuary,
 with visions of thy power
 and majesty,
- 4 So will I bless thee while I live,
 lifting my hands in prayer to
 thee.
- 3 Thy love is more than life to me;
 so my lips praise thee.
- 5 My soul is richly fed,
 and with glad lips I sing thy
 praise.
- 6 When I remember thee in bed,
 and muse on thee by night,
- 8 my soul clings close to thee,
 thy right hand holds me
 fast;
- 7 for thou hast been my help,
 and shadowed by thy wings
 I sing.
- 9 Those who would take my life
 shall be destroyed,
 they shall go down to death,
 10 flung to the sword,

left as a prey for jackals.
 But the king shall rejoice in 11
 God,
 and all the loyal shall exult
 [[for false rebels shall be
 silenced]].

64

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
 tion. A song of David.*

- Listen to my plaint, O God, 1
 save me from the foe and his
 terrors,
 hide me from villains and their 2
 plots,
 from gangs of evildoers,
 whetting their tongue like a 3
 sword,
 and aiming bitter words like
 arrows,
 to shoot in secret at the honest 4
 man,
 shooting suddenly and un-
 afraid.
- They work out their dark de- 5
 sign,
 they talk of laying intrigues,
 for who, they think, will see
 them?
- They have thought out their 6
 plan well,
 each with a cunning heart,
 each in his deep craft.
- But God shoots at them with 7
 his arrow,
 wounding them suddenly;
 he trips them up in their own 8
 plot,
 till all who see them recoil in
 horror.
- So all men, noting the deeds of 9
 God,
 shall tell of what he does;
 good men will rejoice in the 10
 Eternal,
 and shelter beside him;
 right-minded men will all
 exult.

65

From the Choirmaster's collection. A song of David, for music.

- 1 'Tis fitting to praise thee in
Sion, O God;
in Jerusalem shall vows be
paid to thee.
- 2 O thou who hearest prayer,
all men shall come to thee.
- 3 Though our sins be too much
for us,
'tis thine to cancel our trans-
gressions.
- 4 Happy is he whom thus thou
choosest
to dwell in thy courts, close
to thee.
Fain would we have our fill of
this,
thy house, thy sacred shrine
—its bliss.
- 5 God of our victory, answering
our prayers
with deeds of dread, so loy-
ally,
all ends of the earth come to
rely on thee,
and distant shores,
- 6 thou by whose might the moun-
tains are made firm
and strongly fixed,
- 7 by whom the roaring seas are
stilled,
and the tumult of nations,
- 8 till dwellers at the world's far
end
are awed at the proofs of thy
power,
and lands of sunrise and of
sunset sing joyfully of thee.
- 9 Thou art good to the earth,
giving water,
enriching her greatly with
rain
from brimming streams di-
vine;
thou providest the grain
by preparing her duly,

watering well her furrows, 10
soaking her ridges,
softening her with showers,
and blessing all her growth.
Thou art crowning the year 11
with thy goodness,
rich stores drop where thou
passest,
the very pastures of the downs 12
o'erflow,
the hills wear girdles of joy,
the meadows are clothed with 13
flocks,
the valleys covered with corn,
shouting and singing for joy.

66

From the Choirmaster's collection. A song for music.

Sing homage, all the earth, to 1
God,
sing out the glory of his name, 2
and celebrate his praises.

Say this to God: "How dread 3
thy deeds are!
thine enemies cower
before thy power;

all the earth bows to thee, 4
singing thy praise,
singing praise to thy name."

Come and see what God has 5
done,
how dread his deeds are
among men.

He turns the sea to dry land, 6
till men cross floods on foot.

So let us joy in him
who rules for ever by his 7
power,
whose eyes survey the nations,
till not a rebel dares to raise
his head.

Bless our God, O nations, 8
sound his praise aloud,
who keeps us safe in life, 9
and never lets us come to
grief.

For, though thou hast put us 10
to the proof, O God,
testing our mettle, like silver,

11 though thou hast let us be captured,
 let us be heavily chained,
 12 let conquerors ride over us,
 though we had to pass through
 fire and water,
 yet thou hast granted us a
 rich relief,
 hast set us free in liberty.

13 So I enter thy house with sacrifices,

I will pay my vows to thee,

14 vows poured out by my lips,
 vows uttered in my agony;

15 fat beasts I will offer thee,
 the odour of burning rams,
 bullocks and goats in sacrifice.

16 Come, all ye worshippers of God,

hear what he did for me:

17 no sooner had I called to him
 than I was praising him for
 answering me.

18 Had I been thinking secretly of sin,
 the Lord would never have
 listened;

19 but God has listened indeed,
 and to my prayers he has
 paid heed.

20 Blessed be God who has not
 checked
 my prayer to him, nor his
 own love to me.

67

From the Choirmaster's collection. A song for a string accompaniment.

1 O God, bless us with thy favour,
 may thy face smile on us,

2 that so thy purpose may be
 plain to men,
 thy saving power to every
 nation.

3 O God, may the world praise
 thee,
 may all races praise thee,

may the nations sing for joy, 4
 for thou rulest the world
 justly,

thou guidest the nations on
 earth!

O God, may the world praise 5
 thee,

may all races praise thee!

The land has yielded her har- 6
 vest

by the blessing of God, our
 God;

bless us, O God, bless us, 7
 till men revere thee to the
 world's far end.

68

*From the Choirmaster's collection.
 A song of David, for music.*

When God stirs, his enemies 1
 scatter,

those who hate him fly before
 him;

as smoke is driven before the 2
 wind,

as wax melts at a fire,
 so the ungodly perish before
 God.

But good men before God re- 3
 joice,
 exulting with a joyful voice.

Sing to God, celebrate his name, 4
 extol him who rides on the
 clouds,

bless him, exult before him,
 before God in his sacred home, 5
 father of orphans, champion
 of widows,

the God who brings the lonely 6
 home,

and frees the prisoner for
 prosperity—
 only the rebels have to live
 forlorn.

O God, when thou didst march 7
 before thy people,
 when thou didst move across
 the steppes,

- 8 earth was quaking, the skies
shaking,
before God, Israel's God.
- 9 O God, thou didst pour down a
generous rain,
reviving thy land as it lan-
guished;
- 10 thy household were settled
there,
and in thy goodness thou
didst meet their needs.
- 11 When the Lord sent news of
victory,
the women who told it were
a mighty host:
- 12 "Kings and their armies are
flying, are flying,
their spoil is divided
by Israel the fair Dove at
home,
- 13 till her wings are covered with
silver,
her pinions shimmer in gold.
- 14 When the kings were routed on
the field,
it was like snow falling on
mount Zalmon."
- 15 A mighty range is Bashan range,
Bashan range has many a
peak.
- 16 But what is your grudge, O
range of peaks,
at the hill that God loves for
his home,
where the Eternal dwells for
evermore?
- 17 With mighty chariots in their
myriads
the Eternal came from Sinai
to this sanctuary.
- 18 There didst thou triumph, with
captives in thy train,
with tribute taken from
men—
only the rebels dwell not
there with God.
- 19 Blessed be the Lord, our saving
God,
- who daily bears the burden
of our life;
God is for us a God of victories, 20
thanks to the Eternal we es-
cape from death;
yes, God will shatter the head 21
of his foes,
each long-haired sinner who
defies him.
- The Lord's word is, "Wherever 22
you may be,
I bring you from Bashan,
from the sea,
to bathe your feet in the blood 23
of the foe,
and let your dogs share, as
they lap it."
- Behold God entering the sanc- 24
tuary,
my God, my King, in high
procession,
singers in front, musicians be- 25
hind,
between them girls with tam-
bourines,
singing, "Bless the Lord God 26
in your choirs,
O Israel's offspring!"
- In front the Benjamites, so few, 27
the chiefs of Judah, a great
company,
the chiefs of Zebulun and
Naphtali!
- From thy temple high above 29
Jerusalem,
display thy strength, O God, 28
who has so mightily prevailed
for us;
there kings must offer thee 29b
tribute.
- Check that Brute of a Nile- 30
power,
the bullocks and steers of
pagans,
trample down crafty policy,
rout all the races that re-
joice in war,
till even Egypt sends ambassa- 31
dors,

and Ethiopia hurries to submit to God.

- 32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the world,
O celebrate the Lord!
- 33 Praise him who rides high on the ancient heavens,
whose voice thunders aloud.
- 34 Praise God for his might,
whose sovereign sway is over Israel,
whose might is in the skies.
- 35 God strikes awe from his sanctuary,
the God of Israel who bestows
prowess and power on people
blessed by God.

69

From the Choirmaster's collection. To the tune of "The Lilies." A song of David.

- 1 Save me, O God,
for the waters are threatening my life;
- 2 I am sinking deep in the mud,
where foothold there is none,
I have fallen into waters deep,
floods o'er me sweep.
- 3 I am wearied with crying,
my throat is parched,
mine eyes are weak
with waiting for my God.
- 4 I have more men who wantonly hate me
than hairs on my head;
my murderous, false foes are more
than the bones within my body;
I am forced to repay
what I never extorted.
- 5 O God, though well thou knowest my sinful folly,
although no fault of mine is hid from thee,
- 6 may naught befall me that
would disconcert

those who wait for thee, O
Lord God of hosts:
may naught befall me that
would disappoint
thy worshippers, O God of
Israel.

'Tis for thy sake that I have 7
suffered taunts,
had insults cover me with
shame,
till my own brothers kept aloof 8
from me,
my mother's sons were distant to me.

'Tis zeal for thy house that 9
wears me away,
and taunts against thee fall
on me.

When I chastened my soul with 10
fasting,
men jeered at me;
when I clothed myself in sack- 11
cloth,
I became their byword;
men make a jest of me in public, 12
they put me into their maudlin songs.

But as for me, I pray to thee: 13
in thy great generosity, O
God, do thou accept me;
answer me with thy loyal aid,
save me from sinking in the 14
mud,
from the deep waters of hatred,
let not the flood sweep over me, 15
let not the depths drown me;
let not death close over me.

Answer me, O Eternal, in thy 16
love,
in thy vast pity turn to me;
hide not thy face from thy 17
servant,
answer me quickly, for I am
in misery;
come to me, rescue my life, 18
set me in safety from my foes.
Thou knowest how I am 19
taunted,
my foes are plain to thee;

- 20 their taunts have broken my heart,
I am sick to the soul;
I look for pity—there is none,
for comforters, but all in vain.
- 21 For food men hand me poisonous drugs,
and vinegar when I would drink.
- 22 May the table they spread be their own ruin,
may their offerings ensnare them,
- 23 may their eyes be blurred and blind,
may their thighs be all a-quiver!
- 24 Vent thine anger on them,
may thy burning fury seize them,
- 25 desolate be their dwellings,
empty be their tents,
- 26 for persecuting him whom thou hast punished,
and adding to the pain of thy wounds!
- 27 Punish them for their crime,
exclude them from thy favours,
- 28 blot them from the Book of life,
blot their name from the list of the upright!
- 29 But lift me safe, O God,
out of my pain and misery,
- 30 and then I will sing praise to God,
and magnify him with thanksgiving;
- 31 'twill please the Eternal more than any bull,
or any bullock that has horns and hoofs.
- 32 Mark all this and be glad, O folk forlorn,
take heart, O worshippers of God;
- 33 the Eternal listens to a life in need,
he never overlooks his own in prison.
- Praise to him from heaven and earth,
from seas and all that glide therein!
For God will succour Sion and rebuild the towns of Judah,
till men dwell there and own them,
till his servants leave them to their children,
and a race who love him live there.
- 70
- From the Choirmaster's collection. A song of David. To be used when incense is offered.*
- To the rescue, O God, 1
O thou Eternal, hasten to my help!
Disgraced, discomfited, be those 2
who seek to murder me!
Routed, dishonoured, be they
who delight in harm to me!
Thwarted and appalled be they 3
who taunt and scoff!
But may thy followers all rejoice 4
gladly in thee!
May those who love thy saving help
have ever cause to say,
"All hail to God!"
As for me, I am weak and 5
wretched;
O God, make haste to me.
Thou art my help and my deliverer;
tarry not, O Eternal.
- 71
- With thee, O thou Eternal, I 1
take shelter;
never let me be disappointed.
O rescue me, save me, as thou 2
art faithful,
turn thine ear to me and deliver me.
Be a stronghold, a fortress, for 3
me;

- help me, for thou art my
crag and castle.
- 4 O my God, rescue me from evil
men,
from cruel, unjust hands;
- 5 for thou art my hope, O Lord,
I have trusted thee from
youth,
- 6 I have leant on thee from my
birth,
'twas thou didst take me
from my mother's womb;
my hope is ever in thee.
- 7 Through thee, my strength and
shelter,
I am a marvel to many;
- 8 my lips shall be full of thy
praise,
singing thy glory all day long.
- 9 Cast me not off in my old age,
forsake me not when my
powers fail;
- 10 for murderous foes are plotting,
my enemies say of me,
- 11 "Set on him, seize him, God
has forsaken him,
he has no one to save him."
- 12 O God, be not far from me,
my God, make haste to help
me.
- 13 May all my enemies be dis-
graced, defeated,
may insults and dishonour
cover them!
- 14 As for me, I hope on and on,
I praise thee more than ever;
- 15 all day long I will be telling
of thy victorious and faithful
aid,
though never can I tell it to
the full;
- 16 I will recite the great deeds of
the Lord,
and praise thy faithful aid—
and only thine.
- 17 Thou hast been teaching it from
my youth, O God,
and I have ever told thy
wondrous deeds.
- 18 Forsake me not, O God,
when I am old and grey;
- that I may tell the rising genera-
tion
of thy strength and thy
might.
- Thy faithful aid is high as 19
heaven, O God,
for great things thou hast
done;
who is like thee, O God?
- Many a trial sore 20
hast thou made us suffer,
but thou wilt revive us once more
and raise us from the depths,
thou wilt add to our honour, 21
and comfort us once more.
- So shall I praise thee on the lute 22
for loyalty to me, my God,
singing thy praises on the lyre,
Majestic One of Israel.
- My lips shall ring with joy and 23
praise,
even the life which thou hast
saved;
- all day long I will be talking 24
of thy faithful aid,
for those who fain would injure
me
are daunted and disgraced.

72

A song of Solomon.

- Inspire the king, O God, with 1
thine own justice,
endow his majesty with thine
own equity,
that he may rule thy folk aright 2
and deal out justice for the
poor;
- may justice bring the people 3
peace,
from the very hills and
mountains!
- May he prove the champion of 4
the weak,
may he deliver the forlorn,
and crush oppressors!
- Long may he live, long as the 5
sun,
as the moon that shines for
ever!

- 6 May his rule be like rainfall
upon meadows,
like showers that water the
land!
- 7 Justice and welfare flourish in
his days,
till the moon be no more!
- 8 From sea to sea may his do-
main extend,
from the Euphrates to the
earth's far end!
- 9 May the foe bow down before
him,
his enemies grovel in the dust!
- 10 May kings of the west and the
seaboard
pay tribute to him,
may kings of the south and of
Arabia
offer him presents,
- 11 all kings do homage to him,
all nations yield to him!
- 12 For he saves the forlorn who
cry to him,
the weak and helpless;
- 13 he pities the forlorn and weak,
he saves the lives of the
weak,
- 14 he rescues them from outrage
and oppression—
they are not cheap to him.
- 15 Long may he live,
to receive gold from Arabia!
For him may ceaseless prayer
be made,
and all day long may he be
blessed!
- 16 May the land be rich in waving
corn,
right up to the top of the
hills!
May the folk flourish like trees
in Lebānon,
may citizens flower like grass
in the field!
- 17 For ever blessed be his name,
sure as the sun itself his
fame!
all races envy his high bliss,
all nations hail him as the
happy king!

[[Blessed be the Eternal, Israel's 18
God,
who alone works wonders!
For ever blessed be his glorious 19
name;
may all the earth be full of his
glory!
Even so, even so!]]

Here end the devotions of 20
David the son of Jesse.

* * *

73

An Asaphite song.

Yes, to the upright God is good, 1
to hearts unstained.

I almost slipped, 2
I nearly lost my footing,
in anger at the godless and their 3
arrogance,
at the sight of their success.
No pain is theirs, 4
but sound, strong health;
no part have they in human 5
cares,
no blows like other men.
So they vaunt them in their 6
pride,
and flaunt them in rough in-
solence;
vice oozes from their very soul, 7
their minds are rank and
riotous.
their talk is mocking and mali- 8
cious,
and haughtily they lay their
plots;
lofty as heaven itself their 9
speech,
lording it over the world
below.
So people turn to follow them, 10
and see no wrong in them,
thinking, "What does God care? 11
How can the Almighty heed—
when these,
the godless, prosperously fare, 12
thriving thus at their ease?"

- 13 'Tis all in vain I kept my heart
from stain,
kept my life clean,
14 when all day long blows fell on
me,
and every dawn brought me
some chastening!
15 Yet, had I meant to utter this
aloud,
I had been faithless to thy
family.
16 So I thought of it, thinking to
fathom it;
but sorely it troubled me,
17 till I found out God's secret,
viewing their latter end.
18 Thou plantest them on slippery
ground,
thou hurlest them to ruin—
19 laid low in a single moment,
scared away, swept away,
20 like a dream when one awakens,
like phantoms despised by the
day!
- 21 When my heart was sour,
when I felt sore,
22 I was a dull, stupid creature
no better than a brute before
thee.
23 Yet I am always beside thee;
thou holdest my right
hand,
24 guiding me with thy counsel,
leading me after thyself by
the hand.
25 Whom have I in heaven but
thee?
On earth I care for nothing
else.
26 Body and soul may fail,
but God my strength is mine
for evermore.
27 Those who leave thee are lost;
all who are faithless to thee,
thou destroyest.
28 But to be near God is my
bliss,
to shelter with the Lord
[[that I may tell of all thy
works]].

74

An Asaphite ode.

- Why discard us, O God, for 1
ever?
Why fume in anger at the flock
of thine own pasture?
Remember the community thou 2
didst win long ago,
whom thou didst rescue to be
thine own people,
this hill of Sion, thine abode.
Turn thy steps toward the 3
standing ruins,
to all the havoc of the foe within
the sanctuary.
- Thine enemies bawled inside 4
thy house,
set up their emblems there;
they smashed the doors down 5
with their axes,
like woodmen felling trees,
then broke up all the carved 6
work there
with hatchet and with hammer;
they set thy sanctuary ablaze, 7
laying it low, profaning thine
own dwelling.
They said to themselves, "Let 8
us root them out!"
so all the synagogues in the land
they burned;
not an emblem of ours is to be 9
seen.
No prophet now—none knows
when this will end!
- O God, how long is the foe to be 10
scoffing?
Are the enemy always to blas-
pheme thee?
Why hold back thy hand, O 11
God?
Stretch out thy right hand and
strike,
thou who art our King of 12
old,
gaining victories on earth!
Thou didst divide the ocean by 13
thy power,

- shattering the Dragon's heads
upon the waves,
14 crushing the heads of the Levia-
than,
leaving him a prey to jackals.
15 Thou didst open springs and
torrents,
thou didst dry up flowing
streams;
16 thine is the day and thine the
night,
thou hast provided sun and
starlight;
17 thou hast arranged the earth in
its due order,
thou hast made summer and
winter.
18 Thou to be scoffed at by foes. O
Eternal!
Thou for an impious race to
blaspheme!
19 Leave not thy Dove Israel to a
brutal power;
forget not thy poor people for all
time.
20 Look at these creatures, so sleek
and successful!—
every corner is full of their vio-
lence.
21 Let not the downtrodden turn
from thee disappointed,
but may the weak and wretched
have good cause to praise
thee!
22 Up, O God, to vindicate the
cause that is thine own!
Remember how the impious
scoff at thee all the day long;
23 forget not the loud clamour of
thy foes,
the endless din that rises from
thine enemies.

75

From the Choirmaster's collection. To the tune of "Destroy it not." An Asaphite song, for music.

- 1 We offer thanks to thee, O God,
we offer thanks to thee,

telling of all thy wondrous
deeds.
God says, "Through all the long 2
delay
I am still ruling in my justice;
when men in any panic melt 3
away,
I still uphold the order of the
world.
I tell the boastful, 'Do not 4
boast,'
I tell the impious, 'Never
flaunt your power.'"
No, never flaunt your power 5
thus proudly,
defy not God thus loudly;
rely not upon east or west, 6
on the south desert or the
northern hills—
'tis God who rules o'er men, 7
this one he lowers, this one he
lifts.
The Eternal holds a cup of wine, 8
foaming and spiced;
he pours it out for all the wicked
to drink and drain it to the
dregs.
But I will rejoice for ever, 9
I will sing praise to Jacob's
God,
for lopping the power of evil men, 10
and rallying the power of the
upright.

76

From the Choirmaster's collection. To a string accompaniment. An Asaphite song, for music.

In Judah God is renowned, 1
his fame is high in Israel. 2
In Salem, his pavilion,
at Zion, his abode,
he has destroyed all flashing 3
arrows,
shields and swords and mar-
tial weapons.
Thou didst strike terror 4
from the hills eternal;
the valiant fell a prey to thee 5
and slept their last,

the veterans—not a man of
them could move a finger;
6 O God of Jacob, at thy stroke
chariot and horse lay stunned.

7 Terrible art thou; who can
stand
the weight of thy wrath?

8 The earth was hushed in terror
when thy sentence fell from
heaven,

9 when God arose to act on earth,
in aid of the afflicted.

10 All pagans shall give praise to
thee;
the rest of us shall keep thy
festival.

11 Let vows be paid to your God,
the Eternal;
and let all round pay tribute
to him,

12 who strips chiefs of their cour-
age, who terrifies a tyrant.

77

*From the Choirmaster's collec-
tion. To Jeduthun's tune.
An Asaphite song.*

1 I cry aloud to God,
I cry to God to listen,

2 I turn to the Lord in my hour of
need,
I stretch my hands out cease-
lessly,
refusing to be comforted.

3 I moan as I remember God,
I muse upon him till I faint;

4 all night I never close my eyes,
I am so troubled that I can-
not speak.

5 I dwell on days of old,
I recall the years gone by,

6 thinking to myself by night,
musing in my inward quest:

7 "Will the Lord forever discard us,
will he never be kind again?"

8 Has his love left us for ever,
has his faithfulness utterly
failed?

Has God forgotten to be gra- 9
cious?

Has he, in anger, stopped his
pity?

Yes, this is my grief, that the 10
Most High
no longer has the strength he
had.

Let me recall what the Eternal 11
did,

let me remember thy wonders
of old,

let me think of all that thou 12
hast done,

and muse upon thy deeds.

Thy dealings were divine, O 13
God;

what god was great like the
Eternal?

Thou wast a God of wonders, 14
thou didst show the world
thy strength,

rescuing thy people by thy 15
power,

the sons of Jacob and Joseph,

leading thy people like a flock 20
by the hand of Moses and
Aaron.

O God, the waters saw thee, 16
the waters saw thee and quiv-
ered,

the depths of ocean shivered;

rain rushed from the clouds, 17
the skies in thunder crashed,

thine arrows flew and flashed,

thy thunder rolled and re- 18
sounded,

lightning lit up the world,

earth shook and was con-
founded,

as thou didst tread upon the sea, 19
marching through deep waters,
thy footprints all unseen."

78

An Asaphite ode

Listen to my teaching, O my 1
people,

give ear to what I say,

- 2 as I open my lips in a poem
on the deep lessons of the
past,
3 that we know as we have heard,
that our fathers told to us,
4 hiding it not from their children,
but telling the next gener-
ation
the Eternal's praise and power,
the wonders he has done.
5 He set up his witness in Jacob,
he appointed a law within
Israel,
bidding our fathers instruct
their children,
6 that the next generation
might understand,
that children yet unborn might
rise
and tell their children after
them,
7 to put their confidence in God,
and not forget the deeds of
God,
but loyally obey him;
8 that they might not be like their
fathers,
a stubborn and unruly race,
a wavering race,
no loyal hearts for God.
- 9 The Ephraimites were like a dis-
appointing bow,
that fails upon the day of
battle;
10 they would not keep their com-
pact with God,
they would not follow his
directions,
11 they forgot what he had done,
the wonders he had shown
them.
12 Marvels he wrought, under
their fathers' eyes,
in Egypt, in the land of Zoan;
13 he split the sea and led them
through,
piling the water up like walls,
14 he led them with a cloud by day,
and all night with a blazing
fire;
he split rocks in the wilderness, 15
to give them drink in the
desert,
he brought streams out of the 16
rock,
made water run like a river.
But still they sinned against 17
him, in the desert
they defied the Most High;
with a doubt of God in their 18
mind
they demanded the food they
craved,
they questioned God—was he 19
able
here in the desert to spread us
a table?
He struck the rock till waters 20
flowed
and streams poured out;
but can he give us food as
well,
and furnish flesh to his peo-
ple?
When the Eternal heard this, he 21
was wroth,
he blazed out against Jacob,
his wrath broke upon Israel,
for failing to believe in God, 22
for trusting not his saving aid.
So, at his bidding, from the 23
skies,
as he opened the sluices of
heaven,
manna rained down for their 24
food,
and he gave them heaven's
own grain;
men ate the bread of angels, 25
he sent them food to the full.
He brought an east wind over 26
the sky,
he drove a strong wind from
the south,
raining flesh on them like the 27
dust,
and birds like sand upon the
beach,
letting them fall inside the 28
camp,
close to their very tents.

- 29 They ate, and they were gorged
 then
 with the food they craved;
 30 and still they were at their sur-
 feit,
 still eating up their food,
 31 when the anger of God broke on
 them
 and slew their lusty men,
 laying the pick of Israel low.
 32 Yet on they went in sin;
 for all his wonders, they
 would not believe.
 33 So he made their days brief as
 a breath,
 and the end of their life sud-
 den death.
 34 Then, if he slew them, they
 sought after him,
 they would earnestly seek
 God again,
 35 remembering God was their
 strength,
 and God Most High their
 preserver.
 36 But it was smooth words and no
 more.
 their promises to him were
 false;
 37 they had a wavering mind,
 they were not loyal to his
 compact.
 38 He in his great pity cancels sin,
 dooms not to death;
 often he will avert his wrath,
 without one angry breath.
 39 So he remembered they were
 mortal men,
 their life no better than a
 passing breeze;
 40 though often they defied him in
 the desert,
 and vexed him in the wilder-
 ness,
 41 with doubts of God again and
 again,
 that pained the Majestic
 One of Israel.
 42 They remembered not his
 power,
 nor the day he saved them
 from the foe,
 the portents that he wrought in 43
 Egypt,
 his marvels in the land of
 Zoan;
 how he turned streams into 44
 blood,
 till none could drink the
 water,
 sent out dogflies to devour, 45
 frogs to destroy,
 let caterpillars have the crops, 46
 and locusts all the fruit of the
 foe's labour;
 he killed their vines with hail, 47
 the sycomores with frost,
 gave cattle over to the plague, 48
 and beasts to the murrain.
 His blazing anger he let loose, 49
 fury and rage and ruin,
 the messengers of woe;
 straight and swift his anger 50
 sped, unsparing,
 letting the deadly pestilence
 prey on life;
 he struck down all the first- 51
 born within Egypt,
 each oldest male child in the
 tents of Khem.
 But his own people he led out 52
 like sheep,
 guiding them in the desert
 like a flock;
 he led them safely on, without 53
 a fear,
 when the sea drowned their
 foes;
 he brought them to his sacred 54
 soil,
 to hills he had won for him-
 self;
 he drove out nations before 55
 them,
 and duly divided their
 land,
 for Israel's clans to oc-
 cupy.
 Yet they doubted and defied 56
 the Most High God,
 they would not obey his rules;

57 they fell back, false like their
 fathers,
 they failed, like a disappoint-
 ing bow;
 58 their idols angered him upon the
 heights,
 their images provoked his
 jealousy.
 59 God heard of it, and he was
 furious,
 he was done with Israel!
 60 He abandoned his Dwelling at
 Shilo,
 the tent he had pitched
 among men,
 61 he let his great ark be captured,
 let his splendid ark fall to the
 foe;
 62 he abandoned his folk to the
 edge of the sword,
 so furious was he with his own,
 63 till their youths fell in the
 flames of war,
 and girls had never a wedding
 song,
 64 till their priests were cut to
 pieces,
 and widows dared not raise
 a dirge.
 65 Then the Lord started up, as
 from a sleep,
 and, like a hero wild with
 wine,
 66 he made rout of his foes,
 defeating and disgracing them
 for ever;
 67 and then, disowning the tents
 of Joseph,
 passing by Ephraim's clan,
 68 he chose the clan of Judah,
 his beloved hill of Zion,
 69 where he built his shrine like
 heaven on high,
 firm as the earth he has
 founded for ever.
 70 He chose David his servant,
 took him from the sheepfolds,
 71 fetched him from the care of
 ewes,
 to tend his people Jacob,
 to shepherd his own Israel;

and he did tend them honestly, 72
 he led them with ability.

79

An Asaphite song

O God, the pagans have invaded 1
 thy preserve,
 they have profaned thy sacred
 shrine,
 they have laid Jerusalem in
 ruins;
 they have flung the corpses of 2
 thy servants
 to the wild birds as their food,
 the flesh of thy followers to
 wild beasts;
 all round Jerusalem 3
 their blood has been poured
 out like water,
 and there was none to give
 them burial.

Eternal One, how long wilt thou 5
 be angry?
 Is thy passion to burn on for
 ever,
 like a fire, against us?
 Vent thy rage on pagans who 6
 disown thee,
 on realms that never call to
 thee,
 who devour Jacob and lay 7
 waste his homestead.
 Remember not our fathers' sins 8
 against us;
 let thy compassion hasten to
 our need,
 for we are low indeed.

Help us, O God our saviour, 9
 for the sake of thine own
 honour,
 and cancel thou our sins;
 rescue us, as thou art God,
 for why should pagans sneer, 10
 "Where is their God?"
 O may we live to see
 thy vengeance fall on pagans
 for spilling the blood of thy
 servants!

- 11 O may the moan of prisoners
reach thee,
and by thy mighty power
release those who are doomed
to death.
- 12 Pay back our neighbours, Lord,
punish them seven times over
for the taunts
that they have heaped on thee.
- 13 Then we thy people, the sheep
of thy pasture,
will ever give thee thanks,
and to all ages tell thy praise.

80

*From the Choirmaster's collection.
To the tune of "Lilies of the
Law." An Asaphite song.*

- 1 O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
who leadest Joseph like a
flock!
Shine from thy throne above the
kherubs,
- 2 for Ephraim and Manasseh!
Oh stir thy strength
and come to our rescue!
- 3 O God of hosts, restore us
to power;
a smile of thy favour, and
we are saved!
- 4 O Lord of hosts, how long will
thine anger fume,
though thy people are pray-
ing?
- 5 Thou hast made tears our daily
bread,
and tears on tears our drink;
- 6 thou hast made us the butt of
our neighbours,
the jest of our foes.
- 7 O God of hosts restore us
to power;
a smile of thy favour, and
we are saved!
- 8 Thou didst bring a vine from
Egypt,
thou didst plant her, driving
out the nations;

- when thou didst clear a place for
her,
she took root and she spread
over the land,
till her shadow lay over the
mountains,
and her boughs covered even
the mighty cedars;
- she pushed her tendrils to the
sea,
her shoots to the Euphrates.
- Why hast thou torn her fences
down,
till passers-by all strip her,
till the boar from the forest
gnaws her,
and wild beasts graze on her?
- O God of hosts, we pray thee,
look once again from heaven,
look on her;
take this vine, thy charge,
plant her,
this the vine thy right hand
planted.
- Men have burned her, cut her
down—
may they perish at thy frown!
- Do thou protect thy chosen
folk,
those thou hast nurtured for
thyself;
then shall we never be faithless
to thee;
revive us, and we will wor-
ship thee.
- O God of hosts, restore us
to power;
a smile of thy favour, and
we are saved!

81

*From the Choirmaster's collection.
Set to a vintage melody. An
Asaphite song.*

- Sing aloud to God our strength,
shout for joy to Jacob's God;
raise the chorus, sound the
drum,
sound the sweet lyre and the
lute,

3 at the new moon blow the trumpet,
and at full moon, for our festival.

4 This is laid down for Israel,
a rule of Jacob's God;

5 he made it a law in Joseph,
on leaving Egypt's land.
* * *

I heard one whom I knew not,
saying:

6 "I freed your shoulder from the load,
your hands from the heavy
hod;

7 at your cry of distress I rescued
you,

I answered you from thunder-
clouds,

I tested you at the waters of
Meribah.

8 Listen, my people, to my warn-
ing—

O Israel, if you would only
listen:

9 you must allow no foreign god,
no worship of an outside god;

10 I am your God, I the Eternal,
who brought you out of
Egypt's land;

open your mouth and I will
fill it.

11 But my people would not listen,
Israel would have none of me;

12 so I left them to their own self-
will,
to follow their own devices.

13 O that my people would listen
to me,
that Israel would live my
life!

14 I would soon subdue their foes,
and strike at their oppressors;

15 those who hate them would
cower before them,
in unending terror;

16 and I would feed them with the
finest wheat,
with honey from the rock to
their heart's content."

82

An Asaphite song.

God stands out in the council of 1
the gods,
among the gods he rules
supreme.

"How long will you rule unjustly, 2
favouring evil men?

Uphold the weak, the fatherless, 3
let the forlorn and poor have
justice;

rescue the weak and wretched, 4
from the grip of evil men.

Or, I say, though you are gods, 6
all sons of the Most High,

yet, like mere men, you shall die, 7
you shall perish like a
demon."

Up, O God, rule thou the earth, 8
the true Lord of all pagans—
senseless and ignorant, they 5
blindly move,
till the world shakes to its
core!

83

An Asaphite song, for music.

Keep not still, O God, 1
speak, stir, O God!

Here are thy foes in uproar, 2
thine enemies are alert,
plotting against thy folk cun- 3
ningly,

conspiring against thy pre-
cious people,
saying, "Come, let us blot them 4
out of being,
till Israel be no more a
nation."

So they plan, with one consent, 5
in a league against thee—

Edomites and Ishmaelites, 6

Moabites and Hagrites,

Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek, 7

the Philistines and Tyre,

Samaria a confederate, 8

allied to the sons of Lot.

Treat them like Sisera and Jabin 9
at the torrent of the Kishon,

- 10 who perished at Endor,
dropping like dung.
11 Treat their chiefs like Oreb and
Zeëb,
their lords like Zeba and Zal-
munna,
12 for thinking they could seize
and hold
the fields of God!
13 My God, whirl them away like
dust,
like straw before the wind;
14 as fire burns up the forest,
as flames set hills ablaze,
15 so drive them as thou stormest,
and scare them in thy rage;
16 bring them to blank dishonour,
till they turn to thee, O Eternal!
17 Theirs be defeat and dismay un-
ending,
disgrace and destruction!—
18 to teach them that thou, O Eter-
nal, thou
art the Most High God over
all the world.

84

*From the Choirmaster's collection.
Set to a vintage melody. A
Korahite song.*

- 1 How dear thy dwelling is,
O Lord of hosts!
2 My soul has been panting and
pining
for the courts of the Eternal;
now soul and body thrill with joy
over the living God,
3b over thine own altars,
O Lord of hosts, my King and
God;
3a the bird has found her home at
last,
a nest to lay her young!
4 Happy are they who live within
thy house,
praising thee all day long!
5 Happy are they who, nerved by
thee,
set out on pilgrimage!

When they pass through Weary- 6
glen,
fountains flow for their re-
freshing,
blessings rain upon them;
they are the stronger as they 7
go.
till God at last reveals him-
self in Sion.

Hear my prayers, O Lord of 8
hosts.
O God of Jacob, listen;
God, our protector, look on us, 9
welcome thy chosen to thy
presence.
Better a single day within thy 10
courts
than a thousand days out-
side!
I would rather sit at the thresh-
old of God's house
than live inside the tents of
worldly men.
For God the Eternal is a sun and 11
shield,
favour and honour he be-
stows;
he never denies bliss to the
upright.
O Lord of hosts, 12
happy the man who trusts in
thee!

85

*From the Choirmaster's collection.
A Korahite song.*

Once thou didst favour thy 1
land, O Eternal,
restoring the fortunes of
Jacob,
pardoning thy people's guilt, 2
forgiving all their sins,
recalling all thy wrath, 3
averting thy hot anger.

Deliver us again, O God our 4
saviour,
and break off thy displeasure.
Wilt thou be always angry with 5
us?

- Wilt thou prolong thy wrath,
age after age?
- 6 Wilt thou not again revive us,
that thy people may rejoice in thee?
- 7 Let us enjoy thy kindness, O
Eternal,
grant us thy saving aid.
- 8 Let me listen to God speaking,
speaking surely words of
peace
to his people, to devout men,
whose hearts turn to himself;
- 9 soon shall his worshippers see
his aid,
till his great Presence dwells
within our land.
- 10 Kindness and faithfulness unite,
victory and peace embrace,
- 11 faithfulness rising from the
earth,
and kindness looking down
from heaven,
- 13 victory marching before God,
peace following in his footsteps.
- 12 [[Yes, the Eternal brings prosper-
ity;
our land is yielding fruit.]]

86

A prayer of David.

- O thou Eternal, listen to my 6
prayer,
and hear my pleading cry;
I call upon thee in my hour of 7
need,
for thou wilt answer me.
There is no god like thee, O 8
Lord,
there are no deeds like
thine;
all nations thou hast made shall 9
come
and bow down before thee,
glorifying thee, O Lord,
for thou art great, thou workest 10
wonders,
thou, only thou, art God.
- Teach me what is thy way, O 11
thou Eternal,
how to live loyal to thee;
may reverence for thee rejoice
my heart.
- With all my heart I thank thee, 12
O my God,
for ever will I glorify thee;
for thou hast a great love to me, 13
O Lord,
saving me from the very
depths of death.
- Proud creatures are assailing 14
me, O God,
a gang of ruthless men would
murder me,
men who care nothing for
thee.
- But thou art a God pitiful and 15
gracious,
slow to be angry, rich in love
and loyalty;
turn and have pity upon me, 16
O Lord,
grant thy strength to thy
servant,
help thy retainer;
let me have some sign of thy 17
favour,
a sight of thine own aid and
consolation,
to the dismay of those who
hate me.
- 1 Bend thine ear to me, O thou
Eternal, answer me,
for I am weak and wretched;
- 2 Oh save my life, for I am true to
thee,
rescue thy servant who relies
on thee.
- 3 Thou art my God, be gracious,
O Eternal,
for all day long I cry to thee;
- 4 gladden the soul of thy servant,
for on thee, O Lord, I set my
heart.
- 5 Lord, thou art kind and ready to
forgive,
rich in thy love to all who
call on thee.

87

A Korahite song, for music.

- 1 The Eternal founded her upon
the sacred hills;
- 2 aye, Sion and her gates are more
to him
than any dwelling in the land.
- 3 Dear city of God, he utters thy
glories:
- 4 "Egypt and Babylon, Philistia,
Tyre,
I count as mine,
for there this follower and
that was born;
- 5 but Sion!—her name shall be
Mother,
for every follower of mine be-
longs to her by birth."
- 6 The Eternal writes of every
nation, in his census,
"This follower of mine was born
in it";
but, prince or people, every-
one has his home in thee, O
Sion.

88

*A Korahite song for music from
the Choirmaster's collection.
To the tune of "Suffering
sore." An ode of Heman
the Ezrahite.*

- 1 O thou Eternal, I cry for help in
the daytime,
and at night I moan before
thee;
- 2 let my prayer reach thy presence,
bend an ear to my cry.
- 3 For trouble fills my soul to the
full,
my life is on the verge of
death;
- 4 I am already reckoned among
the departed,
I am but the shadow of a man,
- 5 left to myself among the dead,
like the slain lying in their
graves,
of whom thou hast mind no
more—
they are deprived of thee.

In the nethermost pit thou hast 6
placed me,
in abysses dark and deep;
thy wrath lies heavy upon 7
me,
thy waves all overwhelm
me.
Thou hast removed my friends 8
afar,
and made them loathe me;
I cannot get free from my
prison,
and my health pines away 9
under my trouble.

Daily I call to thee, O thou Eter-
nal,
I stretch my hands to thee.
Canst thou work wonders for 10
the dead?
Can ghosts arise to praise
thee?
Can thy love be recounted in 11
the grave,
thy faithfulness within the
world below?
Can thy wonders be known in 12
the darkness,
thy saving help in the land of
oblivion?
I am crying for help, O Eternal, 13
to thee,
my prayer comes to thee in
the morning.
Why discard me, O Eternal? 14
Why hide thy face from
me?
Ever since youth I have suffered 15
and languished,
crushed by the dread of thee,
I faint;
thy burning wrath sweeps over 16
me,
thy terrors have undone
me,
surging round me without 17
end,
closing round on every side.
Thou hast put far every friend, 18
and darkness is my one com-
panion.

89

An ode of Ethan the Ezrahite.

- 1 I will sing always of the Eternal's love,
telling all ages of thy faithfulness;
- 2 for thy love thou hast promised to be lasting,
thy faithfulness is firmly fixed in heaven,
- 5 and heaven is praising, O Eternal, heaven's own host,
the marvel of thy faithfulness.
- 6 For who above can rank with the Eternal,
what angel can compare with the Eternal?—
- 7 a God to be dreaded at the heavenly council,
an over-awing God.
- 8 O thou Eternal, God of hosts, who can compare with thee,
in all thy love and faithfulness?
- 9 Thy sway is over the proud sea; when the waves toss, thou stillest them.,
- 10 The Rahab thou didst cut and crush to pieces,
scattering thy foes by the force of thine arm.
- 11 The heavens are thine, the earth is thine,
'twas thou didst found the world and all it holds;
- 12 the north and south, thou madest them,
Tabor and Hermon hills acclaim thee.
- 13 Thine is a right powerful arm, a strong hand, a right hand swung high;
- 14 thy throne rests upon equity and justice,
Love and Faithfulness are thine attendants.
- 15 Happy the people who know thy festal songs,

who live in the sunshine of thy favour!

All day long they exult, O thou 16
Eternal,
and extol thy equity.
For thou art our pride, thou 17
our strength,
and, thanks to thy favour,
our honour is high;
we are defended by the Eternal, 18
by our King, the Majestic
One of Israel.

* * *

Thou saidst, "I make a com- 3
pact with my chosen,
I swear to my servant David,
to make his dynasty endure, 4
to make his throne last for all
time";
thou didst tell thy trusted seer, 19
thy voice came in a vision:
"I have crowned a hero,
chosen a youth from the peo-
ple,
I have picked out my servant 20
David
and consecrated him as king.
My hand shall always help 21
him,
my arm shall make him
strong:
no foe shall ever surprise him, 22
no miscreant shall master
him;
I will shatter his enemies before 23
him,
and strike down all who hate
him;
my loyalty and love shall be 24
with him,
and I will lift him high in
honour;
I will extend his power to the 25
sea,
and his authority far as the
Euphrates;
he shall say, 'Thou art my 26
Father,
my God, my saving strength'
And I will make him my first- 27
born son,

highest of all kings on earth.
 28 I will always keep my word to
 him,
 my compact with him is secure;
 29 I make his dynasty eternal,
 his throne unending as the
 heavens.
 30 If his sons forsake my law,
 and follow not my orders,
 31 if they break my rules,
 and obey not my commands,
 32 then I will scourge them for
 their sin
 and lash them for their law-
 lessness,
 33 but I will never take my love
 from him,
 never will I belie my loyalty;
 34 my compact I will never break,
 my spoken word I will not
 change.
 35 Once and for all I took a solemn
 oath,
 and I will keep my word to
 David,
 36 that for all time his dynasty
 should last,
 his throne endure before me
 like the sun,
 37 fixed as the moon for evermore,
 firm as the constant sky."
 38 And yet thou hast scorned, dis-
 carded,
 stormed against thy chosen!
 39 Thou hast abjured the compact
 with thy servant,
 and thrown his sacred crown
 into the dust;
 40 thou hast demolished all his walls
 and laid his forts in ruin;
 41 the passers-by all plunder him,
 and he is the butt of his
 neighbours.
 42 Thou hast allowed his enemies
 to triumph,
 giving delight to all his foes;
 43 thou hast made him retreat
 before them,
 and hast not upheld him in
 battle.

Thou hast removed his splendid 44
 sceptre
 and dashed his throne to the
 ground;
 thou hast shortened the days of 45
 his youth
 and heaped disgrace on him.
 How long, O thou Eternal, wilt 46
 thou hide?
 Shall thy wrath, like a fire,
 burn on for ever?
 Remember, Lord, what life is!— 47
 how frail and futile thou hast
 made all men!
 Who can live on and die not, 48
 who can escape the grave?
 Where is thy former love, O 49
 Lord,
 which thou didst pledge to
 David faithfully?
 Remember, Lord, the taunts 50
 thrown at thy servants,
 the insults of the world we
 have to bear,
 the taunts of thine own enemies, 51
 O Eternal,
 taunting thy chosen at every
 step.

[[Blessed be the Eternal for ever 52
 and ever!
 Even so, even so!]]

* * *

90

*A prayer of Moses the man of
 God.*

Age after age, Lord, thou hast 1
 been our home;
 from all eternity thou hast
 been God,
 ere ever hills were born, 2
 ere ever earth and world were
 made.
 Thou crumblest man away, 3
 summoning men back to the
 dust,
 thou to whom a thousand years 4
 are like the flight of yesterday,
 like an hour passing in the
 night.

- 5 Year after year thou sowest men
 like grass that grows anew,
 6 that in the dawn is fresh and
 flourishing,
 and by the twilight fades and
 withers.
 7 For under thine anger we
 perish,
 we sink in terror at thy wrath;
 8 thou dost expose our sins
 and layest our guilty secrets
 bare;
 9 our days droop under thy dis-
 pleasure,
 our life is over like a sigh.
 10 Our life is seventy years at most,
 or eighty at the best;
 it is a span of toil and trouble,
 soon over, and we flit away.
 11 Yet who weighs the full weight
 of thy displeasure?
 Which of us dreads thine anger?
 12 O teach us so to count our days,
 that we may take it to heart.
 13 Relent, O thou Eternal, and
 delay not,
 be sorry for thy servants.
 14 Let thy love dawn on us un-
 dimmed,
 that all our life we may be
 glad and sing;
 15 grant joy as long as thou hast
 been afflicting us,
 for all the years that we have
 suffered;
 16 let thy servants see thee at thy
 saving work,
 and let their children see thy
 glorious power.
 17 Lord, may thy loving favour
 rest on us,
 and prosper all the work we
 undertake.
- 91
- 1 Happy the man who stays by
 the Most High in shelter,
 who lives under the shadow of
 Almighty God,
- who calls the Eternal "My 2
 refuge and my fortress,
 my God in whom I trust"!
 He saves you from the fowler's 3
 snare
 and from the deadly pit;
 he protects you with his pinions 4
 and hides you underneath his
 wings.
 You need not fear the terrors of 5
 the night,
 nor arrows flying in the day;
 you need not fear the plague 6
 that stalks in the dark,
 nor sudden death at noon;
 hundreds may fall beside you, 7
 thousands at your right hand,
 but the plague will never reach
 you,
 safe shielded by his faithfulness. 4c
 You have only to look on and 8
 see
 how evil men are punished;
 but you have sheltered beside 9
 the Eternal,
 and made the Most High God
 your home,
 so no scathe can befall you, 10
 no plague can approach your
 tent.
 For he puts you in charge of his 11
 angels,
 to guard you wherever you go,
 to lift you in their hands 12
 lest you trip over a stone;
 you can walk over reptiles and 13
 cobras,
 and trample on lions and drag-
 ons.
- "He clings to me, so I deliver 14
 him;
 I set him safe, because he cares
 for me;
 I will answer his cry and be with 15
 him in trouble,
 delivering him and honouring
 him;
 I will satisfy him with a long 16
 life,
 and let him see my saving care."

92

A song for the sabbath. To be accompanied.

- 1 It is a joy to give thanks to the Eternal,
to sing thy praise, O thou Most High,
- 2 to proclaim thy goodness in the morning
and thy faithfulness at night,
- 3 to the sound of a ten-stringed lute,
to the sweet music of the lyre;
- 4 thy doings have made me glad,
O thou Eternal,
I sing for joy at all that thou hast done.
- 5 How great are thy deeds, O Eternal,
how deep are thy designs!
- 6 The dull man does not see,
the senseless does not understand,
- 7 that when bad men thrive like grass,
and evildoers flourish,
it is only to be rooted up for ever,
- 8 while thou art supreme ever,
O Eternal.
- 9 Yonder are thy foes, O thou Eternal,
yonder are thy foes, destroyed!
—all evildoers scattered!
- 10 But thou dost raise me high to honour,
thou dost revive my failing strength;
- 11 I feast mine eyes on my defeated foes,
I hear with joy my enemies' doom.
- 12 But good men flourish like a palm,
and grow like cedars on Lebanon;
- 13 planted inside the Eternal's precincts,

they flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they 14
are old,
still fresh and green—
showing how just the Eternal is, 15
my Strength who never errs.

93

The Eternal is reigning, robed in 1
majesty;
the Eternal is robed with a
girdle of power.
Thou hast steadied and settled
the world,
thy throne stands firm from of 2
old,
thou art from all eternity.
The floods may storm, O thou 3
Eternal,
the floods may storm aloud,
the floods may storm and
thunder;
but high above the roaring bil- 4
lows,
high above the ocean break-
ers,
the Eternal stands supreme.
Thine own authority will never 5
fail,
thy house will never lose its
sanctity,
O thou Eternal One.

94

O thou Eternal, thou avenging 1
God,
O thou avenging God, appear;
rise up, O Ruler of the world, 2
and let the haughty have
what they deserve!
How long is it to last, O thou 3
Eternal,
this exultation of ungodly
men,
blustering insolently, 4
lording it arrogantly?
They crush thy people, O Eter- 5
nal,
thy heritage they are harry-
ing,

- 6 killing the widow and the for-
eigner
and murdering the fatherless;
7 and they think the Eternal
never sees them,
Jacob's God will never heed
them!
- 8 But mark this, dullest of the
dull—
when will you understand, O
senseless men?—
9 is he deaf, he who made the ear?
Is he blind, he who formed
the eye?
- 10 Can he not punish men, he who
is training them?
Has he no knowledge, he who
teaches men?
- 11 Knowledge! The Eternal
knows that human plans
are but an empty breath!
- 12 Happy is he who has thy dis-
cipline
and thine instruction, train-
ing him
- 13 calmly to wait on, in adver-
sity,
till a pit is dug for ungodly
men!
- 14 For the Eternal will not leave
his people,
will not forsake his own;
- 15 no, goodness shall have justice
done to it—
the future is with men of up-
right mind.
- 16 Who is my champion against
the ungodly?
Who sides with me against
the evildoers?
- 17 If the Eternal had not been my
help,
I would have soon passed to
the silent land.
- 18 When I think my foot is slip-
ping,
thy goodness, O Eternal,
holds me up;
- when doubts crowd into my 19
mind,
thy comforts cheer me.
- Can evil rulers have thee for an 20
ally,
who work us injury by law,
who attack honest men, 21
and doom the innocent to
death?
- No, the Eternal who is my pro- 22
tection,
my God who is my strength,
my safety—
may he requite them for their 23
crime,
and for their evil make an end
of them!
- 95
- O come, let us sing to the 1
Eternal,
let us sing loudly to our saving
Strength,
let us come before him with 2
thanksgiving,
shouting to him songs of
praise!
- For a great God is the Eter- 3
nal,
the King of all the gods;
the depths of earth lie in his 4
hand,
the mountain-peaks are his,
he made the sea, he made the 5
land,
and sea and land are his.
Come, let us worship and bow 6
down,
kneeling to him who made
us;
- the Eternal is our God, and we 7
the people whom he shep-
herds.
- * * *
- . . . if you would only listen
to my voice to-day,
and be not stubborn as at 8
Meribah,
as once at Massa in the
wilderness,

- 9 when your forefathers doubted
me,
and tested me, though they
had felt my power.
10 For forty years I loathed that
generation;
I said, "They are a senseless
people,
they care not for my ways";
11 so I swore in solemn anger,
they should never reach my
rest.

96

- 1 Sing a new song to the Eternal,
sing, all the earth, to the
Eternal,
2 sing to the Eternal, praise him,
day after day tell of his saving
aid;
3 let pagans hear about his glory,
let every nation know his
wondrous deeds.
4 For great is the Eternal, loudly
to be praised,
and to be feared above all
gods;
5 for all gods of the nations are
mere idols,
but the Eternal made the
heavens;
6 grandeur and majesty attend
him,
splendour and power fill his
sanctuary.
7 Praise the Eternal, O families of
the nations,
praise the Eternal for his glory
and his might!
8 praise the Eternal for his open
glory!
enter his courts with an offering,
9 kneel before God in sacred vest-
ments,
tremble before him, all the
earth.
10 Proclaim to pagans that the
Eternal reigns;
he has steadied and settled the
world,
he will rule the nations justly.

Let the skies be glad, let earth 11
rejoice,
let the sea and all within it
thunder praise,
let the land and all it holds 12
exult,
let all trees of the forest sing
for joy
at the Eternal's presence—for 13
he comes,
he comes to rule the earth,
to rule the world with justice
and the nations faithfully.

97

The Eternal reigns! Let earth 1
rejoice,
let many a shore be glad.
His throne rests upon equity 2
and justice;
clouds and darkness surround
him,
fire burns in front of him 3
and blazes round his steps,
his lightnings illumine the 4
world,
till earth shivers at the sight;
the mountains melt like wax 5
before the Lord of all the
earth;
the heavens proclaim his high 6
authority,
all nations see his majesty.

All worshippers of images were 7
confounded—
soproud of their empty idols!—
all gods lay prostrate at his feet.
Sion heard it and rejoiced, 8
the towns of Judah were in joy
at thy saving deeds, O thou
Eternal;
for thou art the Most High o'er 9
all the earth,
thou hast proved greater than
all gods.

Those who hate evil the Eternal 10
loves,
he saves his followers alive,
rescuing them from evil men.

- 11 Light dawns for the just,
and happiness for men of up-
right mind;
12 rejoice, ye just, in the Eternal.
give thanks as you recall his
sacred name.

98

A song.

- 1 O sing a new song to the Eter-
nal,
for marvels he has done,
his right hand has won victory
by his majestic power;
2 the Eternal has let the nations
see
his triumph and his victory.
3 He has remembered to be kind
to Jacob
and loyal to the house of
Israel;
from end to end the world has
seen
the victory of our God.

- 4 Shout praise, all earth, to the
Eternal,
break into music and song,
5 praise the Eternal with the lyre,
with the lyre and song.
6 shout praise before the King,
the Eternal,
with bugle and with cornet.
7 Let the sea and all within it
thunder praise,
the world and its inhabitants.
8 let rivers clap their hands,
let mountains sing in chorus
9 before the Eternal—for he
comes to rule the world,
to rule the world with justice,
nations with equity.

99

- 1 The Eternal is king! Let the
nations shake!
He is enthroned! let the world
quake!
2 Great is the Eternal within Sion,
high over all nations.

Praise to him, so great and 3
dread!
A mighty Majesty is he.

Thou art a King, in love with 4
justice,
thou hast restored equity,
thou maintainest right and
justice.

Exalt the Eternal One, our God, 5
and worship at his footstool;
a mighty Majesty is he.

His priests have still a Moses 6
and an Aaron,
his worshippers have still a
Samuel;
and the Eternal answers when
they call to him,
still through a cloudy pillar 7
speaks to them,
when they keep the com-
mands he has laid down.

O Eternal, our God, thou 8
answerest them;
thou hast been a forgiving
God to them,
and hast avenged their
wrongs.

Exalt the Eternal One, our God, 9
and worship at his sacred hill:
for the Eternal is a mighty
Majesty.

100

*A song for the thankoffering
service.*

Shout praise, all earth, to the 1
Eternal,
sacrifice gladly to the Eternal. 2
enter his presence with songs
of praise;
confess that the Eternal is God, 3
'tis he who made us, we are
his,
the people whom he shep-
herds;
enter his gates with thanks- 4
giving.

his courts with praise,
 give thanks and praise to him,
 5 for kind is the Eternal,
 his love will last for ever,
 his faithfulness from age to
 age.

101

A song of David.

1 I will be kind and just before
 thee, O Eternal;
 2 let a just man's case come up,
 and I will deal with it.
 I will live uprightly in my own
 house,
 3 I will have no base aims.
 Apostates and their practices I
 hate;
 they appeal not to me.
 4 I banish purposes perverse,
 I disown evil men.
 5 If a man slanders secretly his
 fellow,
 I silence him;
 if any man is proud and
 haughty,
 I will not suffer him.
 6 I look out for the faithful in the
 land,
 to have them at my court;
 men of integrity shall be my
 ministers;
 7 deceitful men shall not dwell in
 my household,
 no man who tells a lie shall live
 with me.
 8 I will be active to wipe out all
 wicked natives from the
 land,
 to root out every evildoer from
 the Eternal's city.

102

*The prayer of an unhappy soul
 who is overwhelmed and
 pours out his plaint before
 the Eternal.*

1 Listen to my prayer, O thou
 Eternal,
 let my cry for help reach thee;

hide not thy face from me 2
 on my day of trouble,
 bend thine ear to me,
 answer me quickly when I
 call.

My days are vanishing like 3
 smoke;
 my limbs are fevered like a
 fire,
 my health is blighted, withering 4
 like grass—
 I forget to take my food;
 my skin is stretched tight on the 5
 bone,
 so bitterly I moan.

I am like a pelican in the des- 6
 ert,
 like an owl moping in the
 ruins;
 I cannot sleep, I mourn 7
 like a lonely bird on the
 roof;
 all day long my foes are taunting 8
 me,
 those who mock me call me
 "The accursed."

I eat ashes with my food, 9
 tears fall into my drink,
 so angry and so furious art thou 10
 —thou who didst lift me and
 hast thrown me down!
 My days are brief as any eve- 11
 ning shadow,
 and I am withering away
 like grass.

He has broken my strength, 23
 he has shortened my days, 24
 till I cry:

"My God, remove me not before
 my days are done,
 O thou whose years endure
 age after age!"
 * * *

O thou Eternal, throned for 12
 ever,
 from age to age thy fame en-
 dures;

13 thou wilt rise and have pity on
Sion—

'tis time, 'tis time to favour
her;

14 her scattered stones are dear to
thy servants,
and they are distressed at the
dust of her ruins.

16 When the Eternal builds up
Sion,

appearing in his majesty,

17 when he turns to the forlorn,
despising not their prayer,

15 then pagans will revere thee,
all kings on earth will own
thy majesty.

19 When the Eternal bends from
his sacred height,
and looks from heaven to
earth,

20 to hear the prisoner's groan,
and to release the doomed:

18 let this be set down for future
generations,
that people yet unborn may
praise the Eternal,

21 rehearsing his fame in Sion
and praising him at Jerusa-
lem,

22 when realms and nations gather
there
to worship the Eternal.

25 Thou didst found the earth of
old,
the heavens are the work of
thy hands;

26 they vanish, but thou shalt
endure,
they wear out like a robe;
thou changest them like gar-
ments, and they change,

27 but thou art still the same,
O thou Eternal,
thy years never end;

28 and in thy presence live thy ser-
vants' children,
and their posterity perpet-
ually.

103

A song of David.

Bless the Eternal, O my soul, 1
let all my being bless his
sacred name;

bless the Eternal, O my soul, 2
remember all his benefits;

he pardons all your sins, 3
and all your sicknesses he
heals,

he saves your life from death, 4
he crowns you with his love
and pity,

he gives you all your heart's 5
desire,
renewing your youth like an
eagle's.

The Eternal vindicates the 6
cause
of any who are wronged;

he let Moses see this purpose, 7
and Israel his methods.

The Eternal is pitiful and gra- 8
cious,

slow to be angry, rich in love;
he will not always chafe, 9

he will not hold to his anger
for all time;

he treats us not according to our 10
sins,

he deals not with us as our
guilt deserves;

but, high as heaven is over 11
earth,

so vast his love is to his wor-
shippers;

far as the east is from the 12
west,

so far he puts our sins away
from us.

As a father pities his children, 13
so the Eternal pities his wor-
shippers;

he knows what we are made of, 14
he remembers we are dust.

Poor man!—his days are like the 15
grass,

he blooms like a flower in the
meadow;

16 at the breath of a breeze it is
gone,
and its place never sees it
again.

17 But the Eternal's love is ever-
lasting,
his loyalty goes on to chil-
dren's children,

18 when they obey his compact
and remember to do his bid-
ding.

19 In heaven has the Eternal fixed
his throne,
and his dominion covers all
the world.

20 Bless the Eternal, O his angels,
strong spirits who obey his
word!

21 Bless the Eternal, all his hosts,
servants who carry out his
will!

22 Bless the Eternal, all his works,
in every sphere of his do-
minion!

104

1 Bless the Eternal, O my soul!
Eternal One, my God, thou
art most great,
arrayed in glorious majesty.

2 Thou wrappest thyself in a robe
of light,
thou spreadest the sky like a
tent,

3 thou buildest thy chambers
on the waters above;
thou makest clouds thy chariot,
thou ridest on the wings of the
wind;

4 thou makest winds thy messen-
gers,
fire and flame thy servants.

5 Thou didst found the earth upon
its pillars,
never to be shaken,

6 drawing the deep over it.
till the waters stood above
the mountains;

7 but they retired at thy rebuke,

scared at the sound of thy
thunder,
never to pass thine appointed
bounds,

or cover earth again;
the mountains rose, the valleys
sank,
to the place made for them.

He pours the streams into the
valleys,
that flow between the moun-
tains,

where all the wild beasts drink,
wild-asses quench their thirst;
there the wild birds settle,

singing among the branches;
and the great trees drink their
fill,

the cedars the Eternal sowed
on Lebâmon,
where the birds build their nests,
the stork with her home in the
cypress.

The high hills shelter the wild
goat,

the marmot hides in the rocks.
He waters the hills from his
high chambers,

and rains abundantly upon
the land,
till grass grows for the cattle,
and fodder for the beasts that
serve mankind;

that he may bring food from the
earth,
wine to cheer up the heart of
man,

oil, that his skin may shine,
bread to sustain his strength.

He marks the seasons by the
moon,
he tells the sun when it must
set.

Thou makest it dark; night falls,
and every wild beast in the
wood is moving—

lions roaring for their prey
and claiming food from God;

22 when the sun rises, then they
 slink away
 to lie down in their lairs,
 23 but man comes out to work,
 and labours till the evening.
 24 How manifold thy works, Eter-
 nal One,
 all of them wisely made!
 25 Yonder the sea lies, vast and
 broad,
 with its countless swarms,
 with creatures small and
 great,
 26 with fleets of the nautilus,
 with leviathan at his play!
 24c The world is full of thy crea-
 27 tures, all looking to thee
 for their food in season due;
 28 what thou givest, that they
 gather,
 feasting from thine open
 hand.
 29 But when thy face is hidden,
 they are scared,
 when thou recallest their
 breath, they die.
 30 Yet a breath from thee brings
 them into being,
 renewing the face of the earth.
 31 For ever may the glorious might
 of the Eternal last!
 May the Eternal joy in his
 own works!
 32 Earth trembles at a glance from
 him,
 the mountains smoke at his
 touch.
 33 Long as I live, I will sing to the
 Eternal,
 and praise my God while I
 have breath.
 34 May these my thoughts please
 him—
 I find my joy in the Eternal!
 35 May sinners be swept out of the
 world,
 may evil men no longer live
 in it!
 Bless the Eternal, O my soul!
 Hallelujah!

105

Give thanks to the Eternal, pro- 1
 claim his fame,
 celebrate his deeds among the
 nations,
 sing to him, make music to 2
 him,
 go over all the wonders he has
 done,
 glory in his sacred name, 3
 let the Eternal's worshippers
 rejoice in heart.
 Worship the Eternal and his 4
 might,
 worship in his presence ever-
 more;
 never forget the wonders he has 5
 done,
 his marvels and his sentences
 of doom,
 O race of Abraham his servant, 6
 O sons of Jacob whom he
 chose.

 The Eternal, he is our God, 7
 supreme over all nations.
 He never forgets his compact, 8
 the pledge given for a thou-
 sand generations,
 the compact made with Abra- 9
 ham,
 the oath he swore to Isaac,
 confirming it as a decree to 10
 Jacob,
 for Israel as a lasting com-
 pact,
 that he would give them Ca- 11
 naan's land,
 to hold it as their own pos-
 session.

 Few in number were our fathers, 12
 few and foreigners,
 wandering from one nation to 13
 another,
 and from realm to realm;
 but he would not let a man 14
 oppress them,
 he would punish kings on their
 account,

- 15 saying, "Never touch my chosen,
never harm my prophets." and lice through all their land;
he gave them hail for rain, 32
and fire flashed over the land,
striking their vines and fig- 33
trees,
breaking the trees of the country;
at his bidding locusts came, 34
and grasshoppers past counting,
that ate up all the green growth 35
of the land,
and all the crops;
he struck down all the first- 36
born in their land,
each oldest male child.
- Then he led out his clansmen, 37
carrying spoil of gold and silver,
not a weary man among them;
glad was Egypt when they 38
left,
for they were dreaded.
He spread out clouds to shelter 39
them,
and lit them in the night with fire;
he sent them quails, at their 40
demand,
and bread of heaven in plenty;
he opened rocks, and through 41
the sand
water rushed like a river.
For he remembered his own 42
sacred pledge
to Abraham his servant.
So he brought his people out 43
with joy,
his chosen with a song and shout;
he gave them the lands of the 44
nations,
and they possessed the fruit
of others' toils.
'Twas all to make them carry 45
out his orders
and obey his laws.
- 16 He called a famine on the land,
destroying all the Egyptians' sustenance.
- 17 He sent a man in front of them,
Joseph, sold as a slave;
- 18 his feet were forced into fetters,
he was laid in irons,
- 19 till the promise of the Eternal came true,
the promise that tested him.
- 20 Then the king sent and released him,
the monarch set him free,
- 21 and made him master of his palace,
lord of all that he possessed,
- 22 to control his nobles as he pleased,
and dictate to his councillors.
- 23 Then Israel entered Egypt,
Jacob lived in the land of Khem.
- 24 God multiplied his people greatly,
till they outnumbered the Egyptians,
- 25 who turned to hate his people,
to handle his servants craftily.
- 26 So he sent his servant Moses,
and Aaron whom he chose;
- 27 he wrought portents within Egypt,
marvels in the land of Khem;
- 28 darkness he sent, he made it dark,
but they would not heed his word;
- 29 he turned their waters into blood,
and killed their fish;
- 30 frogs swarmed over their country,
into the very chambers of the king;
- 31 dog-flies swarmed at his command,

106

1 Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the Eternal!—
he is good,
his kindness never fails.

2 Who can proclaim the Eternal's
mighty deeds,
or do full justice to his praise?

3 Happy are they who hold to
what is right,
who do their duty at all
times!

5 They share the welfare of thy
chosen band,
thy nation's joy, the triumph
of thy land.

4 Remember us in thy goodwill,
Eternal,
O save and prosper thine own
people.

6 For, like our fathers, we have
sinned,
we have done evil, have done
wickedly.

7 At the Reed Sea our fathers
defied the Most High,
heedless of his wonders done
in Egypt,
forgetting all the kindness he
had shown them.

8 Yet he saved them for his own
sake,
to display his power;

9 the Reed Sea dried up at his
bidding,
through the deep he led them
like a desert,

10 saving them from hostile hands,
rescuing them from the foe;

11 the waters rose over their ene-
mies,
till not a man was left.

12 Then they believed his promise,
and they sang his praise.

13 But soon they forgot what he
had done,
they would not be patient
with his purposes;

they had a craving in the wil- 14
derness,

that made them doubt God
in the desert;

he let them have what they 15
desired,

then—made them loathe it!

When they were jealous of 16
Moses in the camp,

and of Aaron, whom the Eter-
nal consecrated,

fire broke out in their company, 18
and flames burned up the

wicked;

earth opened and swallowed 17
Dathan up,

and closed over Abiram's
crew.

At Horeb they made a calf, 19
and worshipped a metal

image,

bartering God their glory 20
for the image of an ox that

munches grass!

They forgot God their deliverer, 21
who had done great deeds in

Egypt,

marvels in the land of Khem, 22
deeds of awe at the Reed Sea.

So he threatened to destroy 23
them,

had not Moses stepped into
the breach,

had not Moses, whom he had
chosen, faced him,

to avert his deadly wrath.

And then they scorned the land 24
of delight;

they would not believe what
he promised,

but grumbled in their tents 25
and would not listen to his

word;

so he swore solemnly 26
to lay them low in the desert,

to scatter their children among 27
heathen men,

and disperse them over the
world.

When they joined the Baal of 28
Pëor,

and ate food offered to the
dead,
29 they angered him with their
misdeeds,
and plague broke out among
them.
30 But Phinehas rose to inter-
pose,
and so the plague was
checked—
31 which was counted in his favour,
as a merit for all time.
32a At the waters of Meribah they
enraged God,
33a rebelling against his Spirit,
32b till they made Moses go wrong
33b and utter words in haste.
34 Nor did they root out the pa-
gans,
as the Eternal ordered;
35 they mixed with heathen men
and learned their ways,
36 and worshipping their idols
were ensnared;
37 they sacrificed to demons,
sacrificed their sons and
daughters,
38 pouring out innocent blood,
till the land was stained with
murder.
39 They were befouled by what
they did,
and broke faith by their
practices.
40 So the Eternal's anger blazed
against his people,
he loathed his heritage;
41 he abandoned them to pagans,
to be ruled by those who
hated them;
42 their foes oppressed them,
forced them to submission.
43 Many a time he rescued them;
but they would take their own
rebellious way,
till evil-doing wasted them
away.
44 Yet he regarded their distress,
when he heard them wailing;
45 he remembered for their sake
his compact,

in his great goodness he re-
lentent;
he made their very captors 46
have compassion upon them.

O thou Eternal, our God, save 47
us,
gather us out of the nations,
that we may give thanks to thy
sacred name,
and triumph in thy deeds of
praise.

[[Blessed be the Eternal, Israel's 48
God, from age to age, for
ever!
Let all the people add
"Amen."]]

* * *

107

Hallelujah! 1

"Give thanks to the Eternal!—
he is good,
his kindness never fails!"
Be this the song of the re- 2
deemed,
redeemed by the Eternal from
their foes,
gathered from lands afar, 3
from east and west, from
north and south.
Some wandered in the lonely 4
wilderness,
they could not find a settled
town;
their soul was faint 5
with hunger and with thirst.
They cried to the Eternal in 6
their need,
to save them from their evil
plight,
and straight he led them 7
to a settled town.
Let them thank the Eternal for 8
his kindness,
and for the wonders that he
does for men;
he satisfies their longing thirst, 9
and fills them in their hunger.

- 10 Some lay in darkness and in gloom,
 prisoners in chains and misery,
 11 because they had rebelled at God's commands
 and scorned what the Most High enjoined;
 12 hard labour crushed their spirit,
 and wearied out, forlorn.
 13 they cried to the Eternal in their need,
 to save them from their evil plight;
 14 he took them from the darkness and the gloom,
 and snapped their chains.
 15 Let them thank the Eternal for his kindness,
 and for the wonders that he does for men;
 16 he breaks the gates of bronze,
 and shatters iron bars.
 17 Some, weakened by their sinful ways,
 were sick and suffering by evil-doing;
 18 they had a loathing for all food,
 they were on the verge of death;
 19 they cried to the Eternal in their need,
 to save them from their evil plight;
 20 he sent his word to heal them and preserve their life.
 21 Let them thank the Eternal for his kindness
 and for the wonders that he does for men;
 22 let them offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
 and joyfully recount what he has done.
 23 Some crossed the sea in ships,
 trading in great waters;
 24 they saw what the Eternal does,
 his marvels in the deep.
 When the wind rose at his bidding,
 and the waves tossed with the storm,
 they soared to heaven, sank to the depth,
 their courage melting;
 they reeled and staggered like a drunken man,
 and were at their wits' end.
 They cried to the Eternal in their need,
 to save them from their evil plight;
 he stilled the storm to a whisper,
 till the waves were hushed.
 Glad were they for the calm,
 and then he brought them to their longed-for haven.
 Let them thank the Eternal for his kindness,
 and for the wonders that he does for men;
 let them extol him, when the people meet,
 and praise him in the council of the sheikhs.
 He turns streams into a desert,
 and fountains into dry land;
 he turns an oasis into a salt waste,
 to punish people for their sins.
 He turns a desert into pools of water,
 and dry land into fountains,
 where he settles famished folk,
 to build a town to settle in,
 sowing fields and planting vineyards,
 gathering in their harvest;
 by his blessing they increase,
 and their herds never diminish.
 He pours contempt on lords,
 and sets them in a pathless waste astray,
 till they grow few and faint
 under the weight of misery.
 But he lifts poor men from their woes,
 and makes their household like a fruitful flock.

- 42 Good men rejoice to see this,
and wrongdoers are silenced.
43 Let any wise man ponder this,
and lay to heart how kind the
Eternal is.

108

A song of David, for music

- 1 My heart is ready, O God,
for song and melody.
2 Awake, my soul! awake, my
lute and lyre!
Let me awake the dawn!
3 I would praise thee, O Eternal,
among the peoples,
I would chant thee among the
nations,
4 for thy love is high over heaven,
thy loyalty soars to the skies.
5 Up, O God, high over heaven!
Up with thy glory over all the
earth!
6 To the rescue of thy dear folk!
Save by thy right hand,
answer our entreaty.
7 God gave his sacred promise:
"I will divide up Shechem in
triumph,
and parcel out the vale of
Sukkoth;
8 Gilead is mine, Manassah mine,
Ephraim I take for helmet,
Judah for my baton,
9 Moab I make a wash-basin,
Edom I claim as subject,
and over Philistia I will
triumph."
10 Ah, who will lead us inside the
hill-fort?
Who will take us conquering
into Edom?
11 Hast thou not discarded us,
shamed us, O God?
thou wouldst not march out
with our army.
12 Help us against the foe,
for man's help is in vain.

With God we shall do bravely; 13
he will trample down our foes.

109

From the Choirmaster's collection.

A song of David.

- God of my praise, be not thou 1
silent;
for wicked men are loud 2
against me,
falsely charging me;
they beset me with their words 3
of malice,
they attack me wantonly;
they return enmity for love, 4
even as I pray for them,
rewarding me with cruelty for 5
my kindness,
and hatred for my love.
Arrest yon evil knave, 6
let some accuser face him;
let him be tried and sentenced, 7
let his prayer pass for a sin!
Few days be his! 8
May another seize his office!
May his children become father- 9
less,
his wife a widow!
May they be vagabonds and 10
beggars,
driven out of their ruined
home!
May creditors seize all he has, 11
and strangers help themselves
to all he made!
May not a soul be kind to him, 12
may no one pity his fatherless
children!
May his posterity be rooted out, 13
and his name blotted out in a
single generation!
But never may his father's evil 14
be forgotten,
or his mother's sin be blotted
out!
(The Eternal ever keep them in 15
his mind,
to root them from the earth!)
Never did he remember to be 16
kind;

but wretched, weak, and
broken-hearted creatures
he persecuted to the death.

17 He would not bless?—blessings
be far from him!

He loved to curse?—may
curses light on him!

18 May curses cling to him like
clothes!

Curses soak into him like
water,

sink to his very bones like oil!

19 May curses be the garment he
puts on!

curses be like his girdle day
by day!

20 So may the Eternal reward my
accusers,

and all who threaten my life!

21 O Lord the Eternal, act on my
behalf,

O rescue me in thy kind love;

22 for I am weak and wretched,
my heart is in anguish,

23 my days are brief as any eve-
ning shadow,

I am whirled off like a locust,

24 my knees are giving way with
fasting,

my flesh is thin and shrivelled;

25 they are taunting, taunting me,
tossing their heads at the

sight of me!

26 Eternal One, my God, O help me,
save me in thy love—

27 to let them know thy power by
this,

what thou canst do, Eternal
One!

28 They may curse, but do thou
bless;

confounded be my foes, but
let thy servant joy.

29 May my-opponents be covered
with disgrace,

robed in their own dishonour!

30 I will give thanks aloud to the
Eternal;

yes, I will praise him in the
congregation,

for he supports a helpless man, 31
to save him from his perse-
cutors.

110

A song of David.

The Eternal has this oracle for 1
my lord:

“Sit throned at my right hand,
until I make your foes your
footstool.”

Yes, the Eternal shall send you 2
from Zion

the sceptre of your sway,
to let you reign amid your foes,
arrayed in sacred vestments.

The day you come to power, 3
you are supreme,

vital and fresh like dewdrops
of the dawn;

“You are to be a priest for 4
life”—

so swears the Eternal, his
oath will not change—

“a priest as once Melkizedek
was.”

The Lord is at your side, 5
shattering kings upon his day
of wrath.

He sends pagans to their doom, 6
filling the valleys with their
corpses,

shattering their chiefs far and
wide;

he drinks from any stream he 7
crosses,

then charges forward, tri-
umphing.

111

Hallelujah.

With all my heart I thank the 1
Eternal,

in gatherings of good men for
fellowship.

Great are the Eternal's doings, 2
to be studied by all who de-
light in them;

splendid and glorious are his 3
deeds,

his victories know no end;

- 4 he will have us celebrate his
wondrous deeds,
for the Eternal is gracious
and pitiful.
- 5 He feeds his worshippers;
never does he forget his com-
pact.
- 6 He has shown his people his
power in action,
as he gave them the homes of
the heathen.
- 7 Faithfully he deals and justly,
trustworthy are all his pre-
cepts;
- 8 his orders are enacted for all
time,
issued in faithfulness and
justice.
- 9 He has sent his people freedom,
fixing his compact with them
for all time—
a God majestic, terrible.
- 10 The first thing in knowledge is
reverence for the Eternal;
it is sound sense for everyone;
His praise endures for ever.

112

1 Hallelujah.

- Happy the man who reverences
the Eternal,
who finds rich joy in his com-
mands!
- 2 His children shall rise to power
within the land;
the race of the upright are
blessed.
- 3 Riches and wealth are in his
house,
good fortune never fails him.
- 4 Light dawns upon the good man,
the upright man so mild and
merciful.
- 5 All goes well with the generous,
open-handed,
who will act fairly;
- 6 never shall that man come to
grief;
the good man's memory never
fades.

He has no fear of evil tidings, 7
he trusts the Eternal with a
steady heart;
his heart is firm and fearless, 8
certain that he will see his
foes collapse.

He gives to the poor lavishly, 9
and so good fortune never
fails him—
he rises to high power and
honour.

Ungodly men look on and 10
grieve,
they gnash their teeth and—
disappear;
the ungodly's hope will come
to nothing.

113

Hallelujah.

- Praise the Eternal, servants of 1
the Eternal, praise his
name!
- Blessed be the Eternal's name 2
from now and evermore!
- Praise to the Eternal's name 3
from sunrise to sunset!
- The Eternal is supreme over the 4
nations, majestic over the
heavens.
- Who is like the Eternal, our 5
God, dwelling in high
heaven,
stooping to cast his eyes on 6
earth below?
- He raises poor men from the 7
dust, the wretched from the
dunghill,
to seat them beside princes, the 8
princes of his people;
he makes the barren wife a 9
happy mother in her home.

114

Hallelujah.

- When Israel went from Egypt, 1
and Jacob's household from a
foreign folk,

2 Judah he took to be his own,
and Israel for his domain.

3 The sea fled at the sight of it,
Jordan made way for them;

4 the mountains leaped like rams,
the hills like lambs.

5 What ails you, sea, that thus
you flee?

Jordan, that you make way?

6 you mountains, to leap thus like
rams?
you hills like lambs?

7 Aye, tremble, earth, at the Eter-
nal's presence,
before Jacob's God.

8 who turns a rock into a pool,
flint into fountains!

115

1 Not for us, O thou Eternal, not
for us,
but for thyself, win praise,
to prove that thou thyself art
kind and true.

2 Why should pagans sneer,
"Where is that God of
theirs?"

3 Ah, he is in heaven, our God,
he does whate'er he pleases.

4 Their idols are mere gold and
silver,
made by the hands of men,

5 with mouths—but they never
speak,
with eyes—but they cannot
see,

6 with ears—but they cannot hear,
with noses—but they cannot
smell,

7 with hands—but they cannot
feel,
with feet—but they cannot
walk!

8 No sound from them!
No breath of life is in them!
So be it with their makers,
with all who trust in them!

But Israel trusts in the Eternal; 9
he is their shield and succour.

Aaron's household trusts in the 10
Eternal;

he is their shield and succour.

The Eternal's worshippers 11
trust in the Eternal;

he is their shield and succour.

The Eternal remembers us, and 12
he will bless us,

he will bless Israel and

Aaron's household,

he will bless his worshippers, 13
both high and low alike.

The Eternal will make you in- 14
crease,

will multiply you and your
children.

Your blessing comes from the 15
Eternal,

who made heaven and earth.

the heaven that the Eternal 16
holds himself,

the earth he has assigned to
men.

The dead cannot praise the 17
Eternal,

nor any who sink to the silent
land;

but we bless the Eternal now 18
and evermore.

116

Hallelujah. 1

I love to know that the Eternal
listens

to the voice of my appeal;

because he bends his ear to me, 2

I will pray to him all my life.

Death had netted me, in desper- 3
ate straits,

I was in anguish and despair;

so I appealed to the Eternal, 4

"O thou Eternal, save my
life!"

Tender and true is the Eternal, 5
our God indeed is pitiful;

the Eternal protects poor 6
souls—

when I am helpless, he is my
help.

for his love to us is vast, 2
his loyalty will ever last.

7 Return to thy rest, O my soul,
for the Eternal has dealt lov-
ingly with thee.

8 Thou hast saved my life from
death,
mine eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling;

9 I will live mindful of thee now
in the land of the living.

10 Though I cried out, "I am
crushed,"

11 thinking, in my distraction,
"All men are a failure,"
yet I had faith.

12 Now, what can I render to the
Eternal
for all his benefits to me?

13 I will offer a libation for my
rescue,
and proclaim the Eternal
aloud;

14 I will pay what I vowed to the
Eternal,
in presence of all his people.

15 Precious in the eyes of the
Eternal
is the death of his devoted.

16 Eternal One, I am indeed thy
servant,
thy servant, thy retainer;
thou hast delivered me.

17 I will offer thee the sacrifice of
thanksgiving,
and proclaim the Eternal
aloud;

18 I will pay what I vowed to the
Eternal,
in presence of all his people,

19 in the courts of the Eternal's
house,
within thee, O Jerusalem.

117

1 Hallelujah.

Praise the Eternal, all ye na-
tions,
laud him, all ye races;

118

Hallelujah. 1

Give thanks to the Eternal!—he
is good,

his kindness never fails.

Let Israel repeat, 2

"His kindness never fails";

let Aaron's household repeat, 3

"His kindness never fails";

let the Eternal's worshippers re- 4

peat,
"His kindness never fails."

I was hard pressed, I called to 5
the Eternal;

the Eternal answered, and he
set me free.

The Eternal is upon my side; I 6
have no fear.

What can man do to me?

I have the Eternal as my 7
Helper;

so I shall feast mine eyes on
my defeated foes.

Far better rely on the Eternal 8
than put faith in men;

far better rely on the Eternal 9
than put faith in princes.

The pagans all swarmed around 10
me;

I routed them, relying on the
Eternal.

They swarmed around me, they 11
beset me;

I routed them, relying on the
Eternal.

They swarmed like bees about 12
me;

I routed them, relying on the
Eternal.

They blazed like a fire among
thorns;

I routed them, relying on the
Eternal.

Hard pressed was I, about to 13
fall,

but the Eternal helped me.

14 The Eternal is my strength, of
him I sing,
he has delivered me indeed.

15 Hark, the joyful shout of triumph
in the tents of the just!—
"The Eternal's right hand car-
ries the day,"

16 "The Eternal's right hand tri-
umphs,"
"The Eternal's right hand car-
ries the day!"

17 I shall not die, but live
to proclaim the Eternal's deeds;

18 The Eternal has been chastening
me sorely,
but he has not left me to die.

19 Open to me the gates of Victory,
that I may enter in to thank
the Eternal.

20 "Here is the Eternal's gate;
the just alone can enter."

21 Thanks unto thee for answering
me,
for thy deliverance.

22 The stone the builders cast
aside
is now the building's strength
and pride;

23 this is the doing of the Eternal—
we can but watch and wonder.

24 This is a day we owe to the
Eternal;

let us be glad and rejoice in it.

25 O thou Eternal, lend thine aid!
O thou Eternal, prosper us!

26 In the Eternal's name, blessed
be he who enters!

We bless you from the house
of the Eternal,

27 our God, the Eternal, who has
brought light to us.

Round and round the altar
dance,

waving your boughs, linked
together,

28 singing, "Thou art my God, I
praise thee,
thou art my God, I extol thee."

Give thanks to the Eternal!— 29
he is good,
his kindness never fails.

119

Happy are they who live up- 1
rightly, living by the Eter-
nal's law!

Happy are they who follow 2
his injunctions, giving him
undivided hearts,

who do no wrong, who keep 3
to his paths!

Thou hast laid down thy be- 4
hests for us to do them dil-
igently;

oh that my life were set on 5
thine obedience!

No shame befalls me when I 6
heed thy commands.

As I learn the justice of thy 7
rulings, I thank thee with
unfeignèd heart;

I will obey thee: never do 8
thou forsake me.

How can a young man keep life 9
clean? By keeping to thy
word.

I give thee an undivided 10
heart; oh never may I stray
from thy control!

I store thy word within my 11
heart, to keep myself from
sinning against thee.

Blessed be thou, O Eternal; 12
teach me thy will.

My lips recount all that thy 13
lips enjoin;

I find more joy in thine in- 14
junctions than in any
wealth.

I muse on thy behests and mark 15
thy paths;

I delight in thy will, I never 16
forget thy word.

Deal kindly with thy servant, 17
that I live to do thy bid-
ding;

- 18 open mine eyes to see the
wonders of thy law;
 19 hide not thy commands from
me, an alien on the earth.
 20 My soul yearns all the time for
thee to intervene,
 21 to check the arrogant, to curse
all who swerve from thy
control;
 22 relieve me from their insults
and contempt, for I follow
thine injunctions.
 23 Nobles may plan to attack me,
but thy servant muses on
thine orders;
 24 my advisers are thine own
injunctions—I delight in
them.
 25 My soul is bowed to the dust:
revive me, as thou hast
promised;
 26 teach me thine orders, thou
who answerest me when I
tell thee my plight;
 27 show me how thy will works,
that I may muse upon thy
wondrous deeds.
 28 My soul is melting under
trouble: nerve me as thou
hast promised;
 29 keep me from being false to
thee, and graciously direct
me.
 30 A faithful life is what I choose,
thy demands I desire;
 31 O thou Eternal, disappoint
me not, I bind me to thy
bidding;
 32 I will obey thee eagerly, as
thou dost open up my
life.
 33 Teach me, Eternal, how thine
orders run, and I will follow
to the end;
 34 instruct me how to carry out
thy law, and I will keep it
with all my heart;
 35 lead me in thine obedience,
for it is my joy.
- Incline my heart to thy behests, 36
and to no love of gain,
make me alive to follow thee, 37
and turn mine eyes from
cravings vain.
 Fulfil thy promise to thy ser- 38
vant, to advance thy faith;
remove the insults that I 39
dread, and intervene for
good;
as thou art true, revive me; I 40
am yearning for thy will.
 Let thy love come to my rescue, 41
as thou hast promised;
then I can face my revilers, 42
relying on thy promise;
leave me not speechless for 43
the truth: my hope is,
thou wilt intervene.
 I would obey thy law contin- 44
ually, always and evermore;
let me live unhampered, for I 45
study thy behests.
 I bear testimony to thy law 46
before kings, unashamed;
I take delight in thy com- 47
mands, so dear to me,
I adore thy commands and 48
muse upon thine orders.
 Remember thy promise to thy 49
servant, for thou didst bid
me hope;
this comforts me in trouble, 50
thy promise puts life into
me.
 Arrogant men may deride me, 51
but from thy law I never
swerve;
I console myself, remembering 52
thy judgments of old.
 Hot indignation seizes me at 53
the ungodly who forsake
thy law.
 Thy statutes are my songs, as I 54
wander through the world.
 I remember thy name by 55
night and I obey thy law;
this is my blessed lot, to carry 56
out thy behests.

- 57 Yes, O Eternal, to obey thy bidding, this is my lot;
 58 with all my heart I pray thee to revive me, as thou hast promised.
 59 Thinking on how to live, I turn to thy directions,
 60 I hasten instantly to follow thy commands;
 61 evil men may ensnare me, but I never forget thy law.
 62 At midnight I rise to praise thee for thy just interventions;
 63 I keep company with all thy worshippers who carry out thy will;
 64 teach me thine orders, for the world is full of thy goodness.
 65 Thou hast been good to thy servant, as thou didst promise;
 66 train me in judgment and knowledge, for I believe in thy commands;
 67 before my trouble I went wrong, but now I do thy bidding.
 68 Thou art good and doest good, teach me thine orders;
 69 proud men bespatter me with lies, but I carry out thy behests;
 70 their minds are gross and dull, but I thrill to thy law.
 71 It is good for me to have been in trouble — to learn thy will;
 72 thy law means more to me than piles of gold and silver.
 73 Thy hands made and moulded me, to understand thine orders;
 74 may thy worshippers rejoice to see me waiting on thy word!
 75 Just are thy dealings, I know, thou wert faithful in afflicting me;
- but now console me with thy love, as thou hast promised thy servant;
 let thy compassion bring me life, for my delight is in thy law.
 Confound the arrogant who ill-treat me, as I muse on thy behests;
 let thy worshippers learn how thou rulest, by turning to my case;
 let my obedience to thee be perfect, that I may not be disgraced.
 My soul pines for thy saving aid, I am waiting for thy promise;
 I pine with looking for thy promises; when wilt thou comfort me?
 Though shrivelled like a wine-skin in the smoke, I never forget thine orders.
 How few thy servant's days? When wilt thou doom my persecutors?
 Insolent creatures, reckless of thy law, they dig pitfalls for me;
 help me against their wanton wiles, O faithful lawgiver!
 They nearly made an end of me, but I would not give up thy laws;
 as thou art loving, revive me, and I will do thy bidding.
 O thou Eternal, evermore thy law stands fast in heaven, thy faithful promise holds from age to age, sure upon earth;
 thy rule and order last to-day, for all things are thy servants.
 Unless thy law had been my comfort, I would have died in my misery;

- 93 never shall I forget thy laws,
for they put new life into
me.
- 94 Help me, for I am thine, I
study thy behests;
- 95 the ungodly lie in wait to kill
me, but I pay close heed to
thine orders.
- 96 I see a limit to all things, but
thy law has a mighty
range.
- 97 Oh how I love thy law! I
muse upon it all day long;
- 98 thy commands make me
wiser than my foes; I am
never without them.
- 99 I have more insight than all
these oracles, for I muse
on thine injunctions!
- 100 I know more than these
sages, for I carry out thy
behests!
- 101 I avoid all evil courses, that I
may do thy bidding;
- 102 thou art my teacher, never
do I swerve from thine
instructions.
- 103 How sweet thy sayings are,
sweeter than honey to the
taste!
- 104 I learn sense from thy be-
hests, learn to hate god-
less ways.
- 105 Thy law is a lamp for my feet, a
light on my path;
- 106 I swore to follow thy just
decrees, and I will do it;
- 107 revive me as thou hast prom-
ised, O Eternal, in my
great misery.
- 108 Accept the vows I breathe to
thee, and teach me thy
decrees;
- 109 my life is ever in danger, but
I never forget thy law;
- 110 ungodly men set snares for
me, but I never give up
thine orders.
- I have a lasting heritage in thy 111
commands, they are my
heart's delight;
- I set myself to execute thine 112
orders ever, at every step.
- I hate men who are half and 113
half, I love thy law;
- I await thy promise, thou 114
my shield and shelter.
- Begone, you villains, let me 115
keep my God's com-
mands!
- Uphold me, as thou hast prom- 116
ised, disappoint not my
hope, but let me live;
- hold me up safe, let me de- 117
light for ever in thy
will.
- Thou spurnest all who swerve 118
from thy will, their
notions end in nothing.
- I count all the ungodly so 119
much dross; I love thy rule
and order;
- my being shudders before 120
thee, in awe of thy judg-
ments.
- Leave me not to be oppressed, 121
for I have done right and
justice;
- pledge thy word to help me, 122
let not the arrogant op-
press me;
- I pine with looking for thy 123
rescue, for thy saving
promise.
- Deal in kindness with thy ser- 124
vant, teach thy laws to
me;
- instruct thy servant, let me 125
understand thine orders.
- High time for thee to act!— 126
men break thy law;
- but I love thy commands 127
above all things, above
solid gold;
- I order all my life by thy 128
behests, I hate all godless
ways.

- 129 Thy laws are a wondrous mys-
 tery—my soul obeys
 them—
 130 the interpretation of thy
 words enlightens and in-
 structs the open-minded;
 131 and I am open, eager, pant-
 ing for thy commands.
 132 Turn to me and have pity—it
 is due to those who love
 thee;
 133 direct my steps as thou hast
 promised, free from evil
 influence;
 134 deliver me from man's
 oppression, that I may do
 thy behests.
 135 Smile on thy servant, teach thy
 laws to me;
 136 when men are disobedient to
 thy law, mine eyes stream
 with tears.
 137 O thou Eternal, thou art just,
 thy sentences are true;
 138 the rules thou hast enjoined
 are just and absolutely
 sure.
 139 Zeal carries me away, when my
 foes forget thy laws;
 140 thy promises are tried and
 true, thy servant loves
 them;
 141 I am weak and despised, but
 I never forget thy be-
 hests.
 142 Thy justice is eternal justice,
 and thy law is truth
 itself;
 143 trouble and anguish seize
 me, but thy commands are
 my comfort;
 144 thy laws are ever just; let me
 know them and so live.
 145 Answer me as I cry with all my
 heart, for I would obey
 thine orders;
 146 I call to thee, O Eternal, help
 me, and I will do thy
 bidding.
- I am up before the dawn to 147
 pray, waiting for thy
 promises;
 I waken through the night to 148
 muse upon thy word;
 oh listen—thou art kind; re- 149
 vive me—thou art just.
 My pursuers draw near in 150
 malice, far away from thy
 law;
 but, O Eternal, thou art near, 151
 all thy commands are true;
 I have long seen that thy 152
 decrees are valid for all
 time.
- Look at what I suffer, save me, 153
 for I never forget thy law;
 take my part, avenge, revive 154
 me as thou hast promised.
 The ungodly are far from help, 155
 for they have no mind to
 thy laws;
 O Eternal, rich in pity, re- 156
 vive me—thou art just;
 I never swerve from thy 157
 control, though many per-
 secute and press me.
- I loathe apostates when I see 158
 how they disobey thy
 law;
 look at my own love for thy 159
 law, and in thy love revive
 me;
 the sum of thy commands is 160
 truth, and all thy just
 commands are ever bind-
 ing.
- Nobles persecute me wantonly, 161
 but my heart stands in
 awe of thy commands.
 I delight in thy promise, as 162
 in ample spoil;
 ungodliness I hate and I ab- 163
 hor, but I do love thy law.
 Seven times a day I praise thee 164
 for the justice of thy rule;
 right well they fare who 165
 love thy law; their road is
 clear.

- 166 I do thy bidding, O Eternal,
and I hope for thy deliverance;
167 my soul obeys thy laws, I
love them dearly;
168 I obey thy laws and thy be-
hests, I live all my life
under thine eye.
- 169 Let my cry come before thee, O
Eternal, and enlighten me
as thou hast promised;
170 let my entreaty reach thee,
and relieve me as thou
hast promised.
- 171 Let my lips praise thee for
teaching me thine orders;
172 let me sing of thy word, for
just are all thy commands;
173 let thy hand come to my
help, for I have chosen to
obey thee.
- 174 I am longing for thy help, O
thou Eternal, and thy law
is my delight;
175 let me live that I may
praise thee, help me by
thy judgments;
176 seek out thy servant in his
wanderings, for I forget
not thy commands.

120

A pilgrim song.

- 1 I cried to the Eternal in my
woe—and the Eternal an-
swered me—
2 "Save me from lying lips and
crafty tongues!"
3 What will you get from Him, O
crafty tongue, what punish-
ment in full?
4 Sharp arrows poured on you,
and burning coals!
5 Alas, I have to dwell in Me-
shek!
Alas, I have to live in Kedar's
tents!
6 Too long have I been living
where men hate peace;

however peaceably I talk, they 7
are for war.

121

A pilgrim song.

- I lift mine eyes to the moun- 1
tains; ah, where is help to
come from?
Help comes from the Eternal who 2
made heaven and earth.
- Never will he let you slip; he 3
who guards you never
sleeps:
he who guards Israel will 4
neither sleep nor slumber.
- The Eternal guards you, shel- 5
tering you upon the right;
the sun shall never hurt you in 6
the day, nor the moon by
night.
- The Eternal will guard you 7
from all harm, he will pre-
serve your life;
he will protect you as you come 8
and go, now and for ever-
more.

122

A pilgrim song, by David.

- I am glad whenever they say to 1
me, "We go to the Eter-
nal's house,"
glad when our feet stand at 2
last inside Jerusalem—
Jerusalem that is now rebuilt, a 3
city solid and unbroken.
Thither go the clans on pilgrim- 4
age, the Eternal's clans,
to offer the Eternal praise, as he 5
prescribed for Israel
[[there were the seats of justice,
the royal tribunals of Da-
vid]].
- Pray for the welfare of Jerusa- 6
lem, "May all thy homes
be safe,

- 7 may all go well within thy walls,
within thy palaces!"
- 8 For the sake of my friends and
fellows I pray, "May all be
well with thee!"
- 9 for the sake of the house of our
God the Eternal, I would
have thee prosper.

123

A pilgrim song.

- 1 To thee I lift mine eyes, en-
throned in heaven.
- 2 As the eyes of servants are
fixed on the hand of their
lord,
and as a maid's eyes on the
hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to our God, the
Eternal, till he takes pity
on us.
- 3 Take pity on us, O Eternal, oh
take pity;
- 4 for we have had our fill, and
more, of scorn and sneers,
from arrogant creatures at their
case.

124

A pilgrim song, by David.

- 1 "Had not the Eternal been upon
our side"—
so let Israel say—
- 2 "had not the Eternal been upon
our side,
when men rose to attack us,
3 they would have swallowed us
alive,
so fierce their anger flamed;
4 the floods would have swept us
away,
the streams would have
surged over us,
5 surging clean over us,
with proud, wild waves.
- 6 But, blessed be the Eternal!
he did not leave us for their
teeth to tear;
- 7 we escaped like a bird from the
fowler's snare, ,

the snare broke, we made our
escape.

Our help lies in the Eternal, 8
who made heaven and earth!"

125

A pilgrim song.

Those who trust in the Eternal 1
are like Sion hill, never to
be shaken;

Jerusalem sits enthroned forever, 2
with the hills around her,
and the Eternal is around his
people now and evermore.

He will not leave the land of the 3
just under the sway of
knaves;
or else just men themselves
might take to evil.

O thou Eternal, be good to the 4
good, to those who are
upright in heart;

as for the shifty and disloyal— 5
may the Eternal scatter
them [[with evildoers, and
Israel prosper]]!

126

A pilgrim song.

When the Eternal brought the 1
exiles back to Sion,
we were like men who
dreamed;

laughter filled our lips, 2
shouts of joy were on our
tongues;

the very heathen said,
"The Eternal has done great
things for them."

Yes, he had done great things 3
for us,
and we rejoiced at it.

O thou Eternal, bring back now 4
the rest of our exiles,
to fill us up, like streams in
the dry south.

Those who are sowing in tears 5
shall reap with shouts of joy;
sadly they bear seed to the field, 6
gladly they bear home the
sheaves.

127

A pilgrim song, by Solomon.

- 1 Unless the Eternal builds the house,
workmen build in vain;
unless the Eternal guards the town,
sentries are on guard in vain.
- 2 Vain is it to rise early for your work,
and keep at work so late,
gaining your bread with anxious toil!
God's gifts come to his loved ones,
as they sleep.
- * * *
- 3 Sons are a gift of the Eternal,
and children are a boon from him.
- 4 Strong sons born when one is young
are like arrows in an archer's hand;
- 5 happy the man who has a quiver full of them,
he need not fear to face a hostile band.

128

A pilgrim song.

- 1 Happy is everyone who reveres the Eternal,
who lives his life!
- 2 You shall earn your daily bread,
you happy man and prosperous!
- 3 Your wife within your house
shall be like a fruitful vine;
your children, round your table,
like slips of olive evergreen.
- 4 Here is the blessing
for one who reveres the Eternal!
- 5 The Eternal will send you a blessing from Zion;
you shall see Jerusalem flourish
all your days,
- 6 you shall live to see your children's children.
[[May Israel prosper!]]

129

A pilgrim song.

- "Cruelly have they harried me 1
from my youth—"
so let Israel say—
- "cruelly have they harried me 2
from my youth,
but they have never crushed me.
- The ploughmen ploughed my 3
back,
and long they drew their furrows;
- but the Eternal, he is just, 4
he has cut down the ungodly."
- May all who hate Zion be routed 5
and shamed!
let them fare like grass-blades 6
on a roof,
that fade ere ever they flourish,
- that fill no reaper's arms, 7
that none shall gather as he binds the sheaves,
- that move no passer-by to say, 8
"The blessing of the Eternal be upon you!"
- In the Eternal's name we
bless you!"

130

A pilgrim song.

- Out of the depths I call to thee, 1
O thou Eternal;
- Lord, listen to my cry, 2
let thine ears heed my entreaty.
- If thou didst keep strict tally of 3
sins,
O Lord, who could live on?
- But thou hast pardon, 4
that thou mayest be worshipped.
- So I wait in hope for the Eternal, 5
my soul waits hoping for his promise;
- my soul looks for the Lord 6
more eagerly than watchmen for the dawn,
than watchmen for the dawn.

- 7 Put your hope in the Eternal,
Israel,
for with the Eternal there is
love,
there is a wealth of saving
power;
8 'tis he who shall save Israel
from all their sins.

131

A pilgrim song, by David.

- 1 No haughty heart is mine, O
thou Eternal,
no lofty looks are mine;
I never meddle with high
schemes,
with matters far beyond me.
2 No, I have soothed and stilled
my soul,
as a mother calms her weaned
child;
my soul is like a weaned child.
3 O Israel, put your hope in the
Eternal,
now and evermore.

132

A pilgrim song.

- 1 For David's sake, O thou Eter-
nal, remember all his piety,
2 how he swore to the Eternal,
vowing to the Mighty One
of Jacob,
3 "I will not enter my house, I
will not lie on my bed,
4 I will not close my eyes in sleep,
I will not shut my eyelids,
5 till I find some residence for the
Eternal, some dwelling for
the Mighty One of Jacob."
6 We heard of the ark at Ephra-
thah, we found it in the
woodland;
7 we went to where he dwelt, and
at his footstool knelt:
8 "Ascend, Eternal, to thy rest-
ing-place, thou and thy
mighty ark!—

thy priests in triumphant array, 9
thy worshippers loudly re-
joicing!
For the sake of thy servant 10
David, reject not thine own
king."
The Eternal swore an oath to 11
David, and he will not
break his word:
"I will set one of your own sons
upon your throne;
and if your sons will keep my 12
compact and the laws I
teach them,
their sons shall also sit for ever
on your throne."

For the Eternal has chosen Sion 13
as the seat that he desires;
"Here is my resting-place," he 14
says, "the seat I choose for
evermore;
I will enrich her food-supplies, 15
and satisfy her poor with
bread.
I will robe her priests in tri- 16
umph, and make her wor-
shippers shout for joy.
There will I make David's dy- 17
nasty flourish, and my
chosen king shine prosper-
ously;
his foes I shroud with dark dis- 18
grace, but his own crown
shall sparkle."

133

A pilgrim song, by David.

How rare and lovely is it, 1
this fellowship of those who
meet together!—
sweet as the sacred oil poured on 2
the head,
that flows down Aaron's beard,
down to the very collar of his
robe;
vital as dew of Hermon, 3
that falls on the hills of Sion.
For in this fellowship has the
Eternal fixed

the blessing of an endless
life.

134

A pilgrim song.

- 1 Come, all ye servants of the
Eternal, bless the Eternal,
ye who stand by night in the
Eternal's house,
- 2 lift hands of prayer to the
shrine, bless the Eternal!
- 3 "And may the Eternal, who
made heaven and earth,
bless you from Zion!"

135

Hallelujah.

- 1 Praise the Eternal's name,
praise him, ye servants of the
Eternal,
- 2 who stand within the Eternal's
house,
in the courts of the house of
our God.
- 3 Praise the Eternal, he is good;
sing to his name, he is
gracious;
- 4 the Eternal has chosen Jacob to
be his,
and Israel as his prized pos-
session.
- 5 We know the Eternal is great,
and our Lord high over all
gods.
- 6 The Eternal does whate'er he
pleases,
in heaven and earth, the seas
and all abysses;
- 7 he makes mists rise from the
ends of the earth,
sends lightning to bring on
the rain,
and wind out of his store-
houses.
- 8 'Twas he who killed the first-
born in Egypt,
both of man and beast,
- 9 who sent portents upon Egypt,

on the Pharaoh and all his
servants;
many a nation he struck down, 10
and mighty kings he slew,
Sihon king of the Amorites, 11
Og the king of Bashan,
and all the powers of Canaan,
giving their land to Israel, 12
to his people to possess.

Thy name, O thou Eternal, lives 13
for ever,
thy fame from age to age;
the Eternal will right his peo- 14
ple's wrongs,
and be sorry for his servants.

Pagan idols are mere gold and 15
silver,
made by the hands of men,
with mouths—but they never 16
speak,
with eyes—but they cannot
see,
with ears—but they cannot 17
hear,
with no breath in their lips!
So be it with their makers, 18
with all who trust in them!
Bless the Eternal, Israel's house- 19
hold!
Bless the Eternal, Aaron's
household!
Bless the Eternal, Levi's house- 20
hold!
Bless the Eternal, ye his
worshippers!
Blessed be the Eternal in Zion, 21
who dwells at Jerusalem!

136

Hallelujah.

- 1 Give thanks to the Eternal!—
he is good,
his kindness never fails.
- 2 Give thanks to the God of gods; 2
his kindness never fails.
- 3 Give thanks to the Lord of 3
lords;
his kindness never fails:

4 to him who alone works wonders;
 his kindness never fails:
 5 to him whose wisdom made the
 heavens;
 his kindness never fails:
 6 to him who spread earth over
 the abyss;
 his kindness never fails:
 7 to him who made great lights;
 his kindness never fails:
 8 the sun to rule the day;
 his kindness never fails:
 9 the moon and stars to rule the
 night;
 his kindness never fails.
 10 To him who killed Egypt's first-
 born;
 his kindness never fails:
 11 and brought out Israel;
 his kindness never fails:
 12 with strong hand and with out-
 stretched arm;
 his kindness never fails:
 13 who severed the Reed Sea;
 his kindness never fails:
 14 who brought Israel through it;
 his kindness never fails:
 15 and drowned the Pharaoh and
 his host;
 his kindness never fails.
 16 Who led his people through the
 desert;
 his kindness never fails:
 17 who struck down powerful kings;
 his kindness never fails:
 18 who slaughtered mighty kings;
 his kindness never fails:
 19 Sihon king of the Amorites;
 his kindness never fails:
 20 and Og the king of Bashan;
 his kindness never fails:
 21 and gave their land to Israel;
 his kindness never fails:
 22 to his servants to possess;
 his kindness never fails.
 23 Who remembered us when we
 were low;
 his kindness never fails:

and saved us from our foe; 24
 his kindness never fails:
 who furnishes us all with food; 25
 his kindness never fails:
 give thanks to the God of 26
 heaven;
 his kindness never fails.

137

By the streams of Babylon, 1
 there we sat
 and wept at the thought of
 Sion!
 There on the poplars we hung 2
 up our harps,
 when our tyrants asked for a 3
 song;
 those who had harried us bade
 us be merry,
 "Sing us a song of Sion," they
 said.
 But how can we sing the Eter- 4
 nal's songs,
 here, in a foreign land?
 Jerusalem, if ever I forget thee, 5
 withered be this my hand!
 May my tongue cleave to my 6
 mouth,
 if ever I think not of thee,
 if ever I prize not Jerusalem
 above all joys!

The Edomites! remember 7
 against them, Eternal,
 that day of Jerusalem's fall,
 when "Down with her! down
 with her!" Edomites cried,
 "Raze her to the ground!"
 And you, Babylonians, you who 8
 plundered us,
 a blessing on him who deals
 to you
 all that you dealt to us!
 A blessing on him who snatches 9
 your babes
 and dashes them down on the
 rocks!

138

A song of David.

With all my heart I thank thee, 1

- I sing thy praise in face of all
the gods,
for thou hast listened to my
cry;
2 I bow before thy sacred shrine
to praise thee for thy love so
true,
that far excels all ever known
of thee;
3 the very day I call, thine answer
comes
with courage to inspire my
soul!
4 When kings on earth hear of thy
mind and methods,
they shall all praise thee, O
Eternal One,
5 and sing thy providence;
for great is the Eternal's sov-
ereign might,
6 he looks upon the lowly from
his height,
and from afar he strikes the
haughty down.
7 Though I must pass through the
thick of trouble, thou wilt
preserve me;
thy hand shall fall upon my
angry foes,
thy right hand rescues me.
8 The Eternal intervenes on my
behalf:
Eternal One, thy kindness
never fails,
thou wilt not drop the work
thou hast begun.

139

*From the Choirmaster's collection.
A song of David.*

- 1 Thou searchest me, Eternal One,
thou knowest me,
2 thou knowest me sitting or
rising,
my very thoughts thou read-
est from afar;
3 walking or resting, I am scanned
by thee,
and all my life to thee lies open;

- ere ever a word comes to my 4
tongue,
O thou Eternal, 'tis well
known to thee;
thou art on every side, behind 5
me and before,
laying thy hand on me.
Such knowledge is too wonder- 6
ful for me;
it is far, far beyond me.
Where could I go from thy 7
Spirit,
where could I flee from thy
face?
I climb to heaven?—but thou 8
art there;
I nestle in the nether-
world?—
and there thou art!
If I darted swift to the dawn, 9
to the verge of the ocean afar,
thy hand even there would fall 10
on me,
thy right hand would reach
me.
If I say "The dark will screen 11
me,
the night will hide me in its
curtains,"
yet darkness is not dark to thee, 12
the night is clear as daylight.
I praise thee for the awful 14
wonder of my birth;
thy work is wonderful.
For thou didst form my being, 13
didst weave me in my
mother's womb.
Thou knowest all about my 14
soul;
my body was no mystery to 15
thee,
as I was being moulded secretly
and put together in the world
below;
all the days of my life were fore- 16
seen by thee,
set down within thy book;
ere ever they were shaped, they
were assigned me,

- ere ever one of them was mine.
- 17 O God, what mysteries I find in thee!
How vast the number of thy purposes!
- 18 I try to count them?—they are more than the sand;
I wake from my reverie, and I am still lost in thee.
- 19 O God, that thou would'st slay the ungodly,
and bid bloodthirsty men be-gone from me!—
- 20 men who defy thee lawlessly,
rising against thee!
- 21 Shall I not hate all who hate thee, Eternal,
shall I not loathe these rebels?
- 22 I hate them with a perfect hatred,
I count them enemies to my-self.
- 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart,
test me and try my thoughts;
- 24 see if I am taking any course of wrong,
and lead me on the lines of life eternal.
- from the arrogant who set a trap 5
for me,
and spread their nets to catch me,
their snares beside my path.
- "Thou art my God," I cry to the 6
Eternal,
"O listen to my plea.
Eternal One, my Lord, my 7
saving strength,
who screenest me against attack,
let not ungodly men have their 8
desires,
let not their plots succeed!"
- When they dare to beset me, 9
may their own intrigues over-whelm them!
God rain upon them burning 10
coals!
God hurl them down, never to rise again!
Away with slanderers! may vio- 11
lent men
be hunted from one woe to another!
They shall find the Eternal 12
champions
the rights of the forlorn and feeble.
- Just men shall one day give thee 13
thanks for this,
and upright men shall dwell within thy presence.

140

*From the Choirmaster's collection.
A song of David.*

- 1 From evil men deliver me, O Eternal,
save me from violent men,
2 from those who in their hearts plot evil,
all the time making mischief,
3 their tongue sharp as a snake,
with venom of vipers on their lips.
- 4 Preserve me, O Eternal, from the grip of the ungodly,
save me from outrageous men,
who plan to overthrow me,

141

A song of David.

- Eternal One, I call thee, hasten 1
to me;
listen, when I call thee.
Let my prayer rise like incense 2
before thee,
my lifted hands like the eve-ning sacrifice.
- Set a watch upon my mouth, O 3
thou Eternal,
guard thou the door of my lips;

4a may I have no mind to evil,
to take part in godless doings.

5 When good men wound us and
reprove us, 'tis a kindness;
I would pray ever to have
their goodwill.

4b But as for evildoers, never
would I taste their feasts,
never would I be their guest.

6 [[They are given over to their
tyrants,
to teach them that the Eter-
nal's threats are true;

7 their bones lie scattered for the
grave to swallow,
like stones splintered and
crushed upon the road!]]

8 O Lord, I turn mine eyes to thee;
let me not perish, I shelter
with thee.

9 Save me from the snare they
laid,
from evildoers and their trap;

10 let the ungodly fall into their
own net,
while I pass on rejoicing!

142

*An ode or prayer of David, when
he was in the cave.*

1 I cry aloud to the Eternal,
loudly I entreat him,
2 I pour out before him my plaint,
and tell him all my trouble,
3 when my spirits faint.

They have laid a hidden snare
for me

on the road I have to go;
4 I look to right and left,
but no man cares to know;
all help has failed me,
none cares for my life.

But thou knowest my path,
Eternal One, I cry to thee;

5 I say, "Thou art my help,

I have thee, in the land of the
living.

O listen to my cry, 6
for I am brought very low;

save me from my pursuers,
they are too strong for me;

bring me from my prison, 7
that I may praise thee;
for good men are waiting
till thou deal kindly with me.

143

A song of David.

O thou Eternal, hear my prayer, 1
listen to my entreaties,
as thou art faithful and true,
oh answer me;

put not thy servant on his trial, 2
for before thee no living soul
can be acquitted.

The foe pursues me, 3
stamps me to the ground;
he forces me to dwell in dark-
ness,
like those who have been dead
for long.

And so my spirits faint, 4
my heart grows numb within
me.

I remember the days of old. 5
I meditate on all that thou
hast done,
I muse on what thy hands
have wrought;
and I stretch my hands to thee, 6
my soul thirsts for thee like
dry land;
make haste to answer me. 7

O thou Eternal, my spirits are
failing,
withhold not thy favour from
me,
lest I become like a dying
man.

Satisfy me with the dawn of 8
thy love,
for in thee do I trust:

- teach me what is the road to take,
for my heart is set on thee;
9 O thou Eternal, save me from
my foes,
I flee to thee for refuge;
10 teach me to do thy will,
thou art my God;
guide me by thy good Spirit
on a straight road;
11 O thou Eternal, as thou art thy-
self, revive me,
as thou art faithful, bring me
out of trouble;
12 in love to me, wipe out my foes,
destroy all who harass me—
for I am thy servant.

144

A song of David.

- 1 Blest be the Eternal One, my
Strength,
who trains my hands to war,
my fingers how to fight!—
2 my Crag, my Stronghold, my
Fortalice, and Deliverer,
the Shield behind whom I
shelter,
the Subduer of nations before
me!
3 [[What is man that thou
should'st care for him,
or mortal man that thou
should'st think of him?
4 Man is like a passing breath,
his days are like a flitting
shadow.]]
5 Eternal One, come down upon
the bending heavens,
touch the mountains till they
smoke,
6 flash lightning out to scatter my
foes,
shoot thine arrows to discom-
fit them;
7 reach from on high to raise me
from these floods,
rescue me from these alien
hordes,
8 with lies upon their lips,

with right hand raised in a
false oath!

- O God, I would sing thee a new 9
song,
and play to thee on a ten-
string lute,
O thou who makest kings vic- 10
torious,
who savest thy servant Da-
vid.
Save me from peril of the sword,
rescue me from these alien 11
hordes,
with lies upon their lips,
with right hand raised in a
false oath!

* * *

- May our sons be straight and 12
strong like saplings,
our daughters like cornices
carved in a palace!
May our barns be bursting with 13
all sorts of produce,
may our sheep in the fields mul-
tiply in myriads!
May our rulers be strong, may 14
nothing go wrong—
no raids or retreats, no panic in
our streets!
Happy the nation that so fares! 15
Happy the nation whose God is
the Eternal!

145

A song of praise, by David.

- I will extol thee, my God, O 1
King,
and bless thee for ever and
ever;
all the day long will I bless 2
thee,
and praise thee for ever and
ever.
Great is the Eternal, loudly to 3
be praised,
his greatness is unsearchable.
One age shall praise thy doings 4
to another,
and utter thy mighty acts,

5 dwelling on the glorious splendour of thy state,
and on thy marvellous doings;
6 they shall proclaim thine awful powers,
and tell thy mighty deeds;
7 they shall spread the fame of thy great goodness,
and sing songs of thy faithfulness.

8 The Eternal is gracious and pitiful,

slow to be angry, very kind;

9 the Eternal is good to all who look to him,
and his compassion covers all he has made.

10 All whom thou hast made shall praise thee, O Eternal,
thy faithful followers shall bless thee,

11 telling of thy glorious kingdom,
talking of thy might,

12 letting men hear of thy mighty acts,
of the glorious splendour of thy kingdom.

13 Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and thy dominion lasts from age to age.

The Eternal is true to all his promises,
and kind in all his dealings;

14 The Eternal holds up all who are falling,
and raises all who are bowed down.

15 All thy creatures look to thee,
for their food in season due;

16 and from thine open hand they feast upon thy favour.

17 Faithful in all his dealings is the Eternal,
loving in all he does;

18 the Eternal is near all who call on him,

who call on him sincerely;

19 he satisfies his worshippers,

he hears their cry and helps them;
the Eternal preserves all who love him,
but all the ungodly he destroys.
My lips shall pour out the Eternal's praise;
let all men bless his sacred name for ever.

146

Hallelujah. 1

Praise the Eternal, O my soul!
As long as I live, I will praise the Eternal,

and sing to my God, as long as I survive.

Rely not upon great men— mere mortals who can give no help;

when their breath goes they return to the dust,
and on that very day their projects perish.

Happy the man whose help is Jacob's God,
whose hope lies in the Eternal One, his God,

maker of heaven and earth and sea, and all they hold.

He remains ever true,
he rights those who are wronged,

he feeds those who are hungry.
The Eternal sets the captives free,

the Eternal gives the blind their sight,

the Eternal raises those who are bowed down,

the Eternal preserves poor foreigners,

the widow and the orphan he relieves;

the Eternal loves those who are good,

but the ungodly life he ruins.
The Eternal shall be king for ever, thy God, O Sion, for all ages.

147

- 1 Hallelujah. Hallelujah.
 Praise the Eternal, for he is
 good;
 make melody to our God, for
 he is gracious.
- 2 The Eternal restores Jerusalem,
 he gathers the outcasts of Is-
 rael,
- 3 he heals the broken-hearted
 and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He fixes the number of the stars,
 and gives a name to each.
- 5 Great is our Lord, mighty in
 power,
 his wisdom is unsearchable.
- 6 The Eternal has relief for the
 afflicted,
 he brings the ungodly to the
 ground.

- 7 Sing thanks to the Eternal,
 make melody to our God
 upon the lyre,
- 8 who covers the sky with clouds,
 provides rain for the earth,
 till grass grows on the very hills,
 and fodder for the beasts that
 serve mankind,
- 9 who gives wild animals their
 food,
 that cry for it at eventide.
- 10 He cares not for the strength of
 the war-horse,
 delights not in man's armour;
- 11 the Eternal delights in those
 who revere him,
 who trust to his own good-
 ness.
- 12 Praise the Eternal, O Jerusalem,
 praise your God, O Sion;
- 13 for he has fortified your gate-
 ways,
 and blessed your citizens
 within,
- 14 has made Peace guard your
 boundaries,
 and filled you with the finest
 wheat.

- He issues his commands to earth, 15
 his orders run apace,
 showering snow white as wool, 16
 scattering hoarfrost thick as
 ashes,
 casting hailstones down like 17
 crumbs.
- The waters freeze;
 he sends an order, and they 18
 melt;
 once he makes the wind blow,
 then the waters flow.
- He makes his purpose known to 19
 Jacob,
 his orders and his laws to Is-
 rael;
 never has he done so to other 20
 nations—
 they know not his commands.

148

Hallelujah. 1

- Praise the Eternal from the
 heavens,
- praise him in the heights,
 praise him, all his angels, 2
 praise him, all his hosts,
 praise him, sun and moon, 3
 praise him, all stars of light,
 praise him, heaven of heavens, 4
 ye waters higher than the
 heavens!
- Let them praise the name of the 5
 Eternal,
 for he commanded and they
 were created,
 he fixed them fast for evermore, 6
 he set them boundaries that
 they should not pass.
- Praise the Eternal from the 7
 earth,
 ye depths of ocean and ye water-
 spouts,
 lightning and hail and snow and 8
 ice,
 storms carrying out his will,
 mountains and every hill, 9
 fruit-trees and every cedar,
 wild animals and every beast, 10

crawling things, birds on the wing,
 11 kings of earth and all the nations,
 princes and all authorities,
 12 young men and maidens too,
 old men and boys;
 13 let them praise the name of the Eternal,
 for his name only is supreme;
 his majesty is above heaven and earth,
 14 and he has raised his people to high honour.
 To praise him is for all his faithful,
 for Israel, for the nation near to him.

149

1 Hallelujah.

Sing a new song to the Eternal,
 praise him where his faithful gather;
 2 let Israel be joyful in their Maker,
 let the sons of Sion triumph in their King,
 3 let them dance in praise of him,
 make melody to him with drum and lyre;
 4 for the Eternal delights in his people,
 adorning the afflicted with a victory.
 5 Let the faithful exult over their triumph,

shouting joyfully in their great temple,
 God's praise upon their lips, 6
 and a sharp sword in their hands,
 for vengeance upon pagans, 7
 for punishment on nations,
 to put their monarchs into 8
 chains,
 their nobles into iron gyves.
 To execute on such their appointed doom
 this is an honour for God's faithful ones.

150

Hallelujah.

1

Praise God in his sanctuary,
 praise him in his heaven of power,
 praise him for his mighty deeds, 2
 praise him for his sovereign strength;
 praise him with a bugle blast, 3
 praise him with the lute and lyre,
 praise him with the drum and 4
 dance,
 praise him with strings and flute,
 praise him with resounding 5
 cymbals,
 praise him with the clash of cymbals.
 Let everything that breathes 6
 praise the Eternal!

Hallelujah.

PROVERBS

- 1 Maxims of Solomon king of Israel, the son of David: 14
- 2 for gaining sagacity and intelligence, 15
- for a imparting of wise teaching.
- 3 for training in right conduct, 17
- in duty, goodness, and integrity,
- 4 for imparting insight to the ignorant, 18
- knowledge and sense to the young,
- 6 for understanding maxims and parables, 20
- the sentences of sages and their aphorisms.
- 5 (Let the sage too listen and learn sense, 21
- let the intelligent know how to handle life.)
- 7 Reverence for the Eternal is the first thing in knowledge, 22
- but the impious scorn sagacity and intelligence.
- 8 Listen, my son, to your father's instructions, 23
- reject not your mother's directions:
- 9 they will be a graceful garland for your head, 24
- as a necklace for your neck.
- 10 My son, if scoundrels would lead you astray, 25
- never agree to it;
- 11 if they say, "Come along, let us trap honest folk, 26
- let us ambush the innocent,
- 12 let us swallow them up like death, 27
- swallow them whole as men die in their prime;
- 13 we shall get all sorts of rare stuff, 28
- and cram our houses with booty.
- Cast in your lot with us, 14
- we will all have one purse"—
- my son, never join them, 15
- keep clear of their courses.
- It is in vain that birds behold 17
- the net spread for them;
- and these men trap themselves 18
- in death,
- 'tis their own lives they am-bush.
- Such is the fate of gain ill-got, 19
- it ruins those who grasp it.
- Wisdom calls aloud in the 20
- streets,
- and lifts her voice in the squares,
- crying from the busy markets, 21
- and at the entry of the town-gates:
- "O heedless ones, how long will 22
- you choose to be heedless,
- and scoffers delight in scoffing,
- and senseless folk hate knowl-edge?
- Pay heed to my warning, 23
- I open my mind to you,
- I let you hear what I decide:
- 'because I have called and you 24
- would not listen,
- none heeded me as I beck-oned,
- because you have shunned my 25
- advice,
- and would not take my warn-ing,
- the laugh will be mine in the 26
- hour of your plight,
- I will be mocking when your terror comes,
- when your terror comes like a 27
- tempest,
- when your plight comes on like a whirlwind.
- when shock and calamity seize you.'
- Then they may call, but I will 28
- never answer,

- then they may seek, but never
 shall they find me,
 29 since they hated knowledge
 and chose not to reverence
 the Eternal.
 30 They would have none of my
 advice,
 but despised every warning of
 mine;
 31 so now they must eat the fruit
 of their own doings,
 and have their fill of all that
 they devised.
 32 For heedless folk fall by their
 own self-will,
 the senseless are destroyed by
 their indifference;
 33 but safe heliveswholistenstome,
 from fear of harm he shall be
 wholly free."
- 2 My son, if you take to heart
 what I say,
 and set store by my com-
 mands,
 2 bending your ear to wisdom
 and applying your mind to
 knowledge;
 3 if you cry to intelligence
 and call for knowledge,
 4 seeking her out as silver
 and searching for her like
 treasure;
 5 then you shall see what is rever-
 ence for the Eternal,
 and find what the knowledge
 of God means
 6 (for it is the Eternal who sup-
 plies wisdom,
 from him come insight and
 knowledge,
 7 he has help ready for the up-
 right,
 he is a shield for those who
 live honestly,
 8 a safeguard for the straight life,
 a protection for the pious);
 9 then you shall understand duty
 and goodness,
 and keep to every honest
 course,
- living the life of honest men 20
 and keeping to the good man's
 road.
 For wisdom will be welcome to 10
 your mind,
 and knowledge will be a joy to
 you,
 good sense will take charge of 11
 you,
 sound judgment will keep you
 right,
 saving you from wicked courses, 12
 from the self-willed speech of
 men
 who leave the paths of right 13
 to follow dark courses,
 who delight in doing wrong, 14
 who have joy in wilful wicked-
 ness,
 men of crooked courses 15
 and of devious paths—
 saving you also from the loose 16
 women,
 the harlot with her words so
 smooth,
 who leaves her own husband 17
 and forgets her married troth
 before God;
 her house leads down to death, 18
 her courses lead to death-
 land;
 none who visit her ever come 19
 back,
 they never come out on the
 path of life.
 For upright men have lasting 21
 bliss,
 and blameless men survive;
 but evil men are swept away, 22
 and vicious men are rooted
 out.
- My son, forget not my direc- 3
 tions,
 keep in mind what I com-
 mand;
 for that will bring you welfare, 2
 long days and a happy life.
 Never let kindness and loyalty 3
 go,
 tie them fast round your neck;

- 4 so you shall have goodwill and
good repute
with God and man alike.
- 5 Rely on the Eternal with all
your heart,
and do not lean on your own
insight;
- 6 have mind of him wherever you
may go,
and he will clear the road for
you.
- 7 Never pride yourself on your
own wisdom,
revere the Eternal and draw
back from sin:
- 8 that will mean health for your
body
and fresh life to your frame.
- 9 Honour the Eternal with your
wealth,
and with the best of all you
make;
- 10 so shall your barns be full of
corn,
your vats brim over with new
wine.
- 11 My son, spurn not the Eternal's
schooling,
never be weary of his discip-
line;
- 12 his discipline is for the man he
loves,
he chastens any son whom
he delights in.
- 13 Happy is the man who gathers
wisdom,
the man who gains knowl-
edge:
- 14 her profits are richer than
silver,
she brings in more than gold;
- 15 she is more precious than rubies,
no treasure can compare with
her;
- 16 long days lie in her right hand,
wealth and honour in her
left;
- 17 her ways are ways of tranquil
ease
and all her paths are bliss;
- to those who grasp her, she is 18
vital strength—
happy are all who hold her
fast.
- With wisdom did the Eternal 19
found the earth,
with knowledge did he raise
the heavens;
'twas with intelligence he broke 20
up the abyss
and made the clouds drop dew.
- My son, hold to sagacity and 21
sense,
never lose sight of them;
they will make your life long, 22
and add charm to it;
then you can safely go your way, 23
with never a slip;
you can rest unafraid, 24
you can lie down and sweetly
sleep;
never need you fear sudden 25
blows
or the storm that strikes the
wicked,
for the Eternal will be your pro- 26
tection,
and preserve you from all
danger.
- Never refuse help to your neigh- 27
bour,
when you can render it;
never say to him, "Go, and 28
come again,
I will have it to-morrow for
you"—
when you have it beside you!
Never plot mischief against your 29
neighbour
as he lives near you unsus-
pecting.
- Never quarrel with a man for no 30
reason,
when he has never done you
any harm.
- Never envy a high-handed man, 31
or choose his methods;

- 32 for the Eternal loathes a bad man,
the honest are the Eternal's friends;
- 33 the Eternal's curse lies on the house of the wicked,
but he blesses the good man's dwelling;
- 34 scoffers he scoffs at,
but he favours the devout;
- 35 wise men come to honour,
but shame is all the foolish gain.
- 4 Listen, my children, to a father's instruction,
attend and learn intelligence:
- 2 I give you good counsel,
turn not from my teaching.
- 3 When I was a son with my father,
a little one, loved by my mother,
- 4 he taught me and told me this:
"Keep in mind what I say,
do what I bid you, and you shall live,
- 5b swerve not from my orders.
- 5a Get sense, get knowledge,
7b at any cost get knowledge,
- 6 never leave her, and she will guard you,
love her, and she will take care of you,
- 8 prize her, and she will promote you,
and bring you to honour, if you will embrace her,
- 9 she will adorn you with charm and crown you with glory.
- 10 Listen, my son, take to heart what I say,
and the years of your life shall be many;
- 11 I am giving you wise directions and leading you aright;
- 12 when you walk, you will never be hindered,
when you run, you will not slip.
- Hold fast to my instructions, 13
never let them go,
keep them—they are life to you.
- Never set foot on a bad man's 14
path,
and take not the road of evil men;
- avoid it, never follow it, 15
shun it, and pass on.
- For they cannot sleep till they 16
have done some wrong,
till they have tripped up someone, they are sleepless;
- they eat ill-gotten food 17
and drink wine won by cruelty.
- The course of bad men lies 19
through darkness dim,
they cannot see what makes them stumble;
- the course of good men, like a 18
ray of dawn,
shines on and on to the full light of day.
- My son, attend to what I say, 20
bend your ear to my words;
never lose sight of them, 21
but fix them in your mind;
to those who find them, they 22
are life,
and health to all their being.
- Guard above all things, guard 23
your inner self,
for so you live and prosper;
bar out all talk of evil, 24
and banish wayward words;
let your eyes look straight 25
ahead,
gaze right in front of you;
keep a clear path before you, 26
and ever make your footing firm;
- never turn to right or left, 27
draw back from a wrong step.
- My son, attend to wisdom, 5
bend your ear to knowledge,
that caution may be your safe- 2
guard,

- and prudence may take care
of you;
keep hold of caution and sound
sense,
3 that they may save you from
the loose woman:
her lips drop honied words,
her talk is smother than oil
itself,
4 but the end with her is bitter as
poison,
sharp as a sword with double
edge;
5 her feet go down to Death,
her steps lead straight to the
grave;
6 the high road of Life is not for
her,
shifty and slippery are her
tracks.
7 Now listen to me, my son,
hold fast to what I say:
8 keep clear of her,
never go near her door,
9 lest you have to part with your
money,
and hand your earnings over,
10 lest outsiders enjoy all that you
make,
and all your wealth goes to a
stranger's household,
11 till you are left at last to moan,
when all you have is wasted.
12 'Ah! why did I hate guidance,
why did I despise all warning?'
13 Why did not I listen to those
who trained me,
and bend my ear to those who
were my guides?
14 I have been nearly sentenced to
death
by the community.'
- Let your fountain flow for your- 18
self alone:
let a young wife be your joy,
a lovely hind, a charming doe is 19
she;
let her breasts give you rapture,
let her love ever ravish you.
Why be ravished with a loose 20
creature,
and embrace the bosom of
another woman?
- Man's goings are observed by 21
the Eternal,
he takes account of all his
ways.
A man's misdeeds shall snare 22
him,
his sin shall catch him in its
meshes;
for lack of sense he dies, 23
his utter folly ruins him.
- My son, if you have gone bail 6
for your fellow,
and given your pledge for
someone else,
if you have snared yourself with 2
your own words,
and trapped yourself by
promises,
then do this, my son—release 3
yourself,
for you are in your fellow's
power;
be quick, beseech your fellow,
close not an eye, 4
let not your eyelids slumber,
but free yourself like a roe from 5
the snare,
like a bird from the hand of
the fowler.
- Go to the ant, you sluggard, 6
look at her ways, learn sense;
for she has no leader, 7
no foreman or chief,
yet in the summer she provides 8
her food,
and gathers during harvest-
days.
- 15 Drink from your own cistern,
drink fresh water out of your
own well.
16 Are you to seek your pleasures
here and there,
and drink them in the streets?
17 Have them at home,
never share them abroad.

- 9 You sluggard, how long will you sleep?
When will you rise from slumber?
- 10 'Let me sleep for a little, a little!
let me fold my hands for a little to rest?'—
- 11 yes, and poverty will pounce on you,
want will overpower you.
- 12 A rascal, a knave—
he works with falsehood on his lips,
- 13 he winks with his eyes and scrapes with his feet,
he signs with his fingers,
- 14 his mind is ever planning mischief,
he is always sowing discord;
- 15 so doom shall strike him suddenly,
suddenly, hopelessly, shall he be broken.
- 16 Six things the Eternal hates,
aye, seven he loathes:
- 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,
- 18 a mind with crafty plans,
feet eager to go mischief-making,
- 19 a false witness who tells lies,
and any man who sows discord in his circle.
- 20 My son, do your father's bidding,
and reject not your mother's directions;
- 21 fix them ever in your mind,
tie them fast round your neck;
- 23 for their bidding will throw light upon your life,
their directions will enlighten you,
and to be trained is the way to live.
- 22 Wisdom, when you walk, will guide you,
- when you rest, she will take care of you,
when you wake up, she will talk to you,
keeping you clear of the married woman,
from the wiles of a loose woman's tongue;
- let not your heart long for her beauty,
let not her glances captivate you:
for the harlot is only out to earn a meal,
but the adulteress preys upon your very life.
- Can a man take fire in his lap without burning his clothes?
Can anyone walk upon hot coals without scorching his feet?
So with him who goes in to a neighbour's wife:
none who touches her shall go unpunished.
- Men do not let off a thief, even if he steals to satisfy his hunger;
if he is caught, he has to pay for it seven times over,
to give all his house contains.
- But an adulterer is devoid of sense,
he ruins himself by what he does,
he is whipped, he is disgraced,
there is no wiping away his dishonour;
- for jealousy rouses a husband to fury,
he has no mercy when he takes revenge,
no money buys him off,
he will not be satisfied, for all you offer.
- My son, do what I tell you,
set store by my commands,
do as I bid you, and you shall live,
keep my directions as the very apple of your eye;

- 3 bind them upon your fingers,
write them upon the tablet of
your mind.
- 4 Say to Wisdom, 'You are my
darling,'
call Knowledge your kins-
woman,
- 5 that they may keep you from
another's wife,
from the loose woman with
her words so smooth.
- 6 At the window of her house
she looks out through the
lattice;
- 7 she notices among the lads
a brainless youth,
- 8 strolling along near the street-
corner
in the direction of her house,
- 9 in the twilight of the evening
or at black midnight.
- 10 And there is the woman, out to
meet him,
dressed like a harlot, the cun-
ning creature
- 11 (restless and restive, she must
be out,
she cannot stay at home,
- 12 now in the streets and now in
the squares,
haunting every corner)!
- 13 She catches him and kisses him
and says to him, with an im-
pudent look,
- 14 'I am holding a thanksgiving
feast,
for my vows are paid to-day;
- 15 so I came out to meet you,
to look for you—now I have
found you!
- 16 I have spread rugs on my
couch,
striped sheets of Egyptian
yarn,
- 17 I have scented my bed with
myrrh,
with eagle-wood and cinna-
mon;
- 18 come, let us take our fill of love
till morning,
let us revel in caresses.
- For my man is not at home, 19
he is off on a long journey;
he has taken a bag of money 20
with him,
he will not be home till the
full moon feast.'
- With her coaxing pleas she per- 21
suades him,
with her smooth words she
carries him away;
and he is enticed to follow her, 22
like an ox moving to the
slaughter,
like a dog cajoled to the
muzzle,
like a bird fluttering straight 23
into the net—
never dreaming its life is in
danger,
till its heart is pierced by an
arrow.
- Now, my son, listen to me, 24
attend to what I say:
never let yourself swerve to her 25
ways,
never wander on her paths;
for many a one she has brought 26
down dead,
aye, many a man she has
slain;
her house is the road to the 27
grave,
it leads down to the chambers
of death."
- Is it not Wisdom calling, 8
Knowledge raising her voice?
On the high ground by the road- 2
side,
in the streets she takes her
stand,
by the gateways opening to the 3
city,
at the entries, she is crying
out:
"O men, I am calling to you, 4
my appeal is to all men!
O heedless souls, learn in- 5
sight,
O foolish folk, learn to be
sensible!

- 6 Listen, for I have a weighty message,
my lips open with right words,
- 7 I utter what is true,
false lips I loathe,
- 8 all I say is honest,
with nothing in it false or wrong;
- 9 it is all plain to the man of sense,
and true to those who are intelligent.
- 10 Choose instruction rather than silver,
and knowledge rather than rare gold;
- 11 for wisdom is better than rubies,
no treasure is equal to her.
- 12 I Wisdom have intelligence in hand,
knowledge and insight I command
- 13 [[to reverence the Eternal is to hate evil:
pride, arrogance, an evil life,
and lying lips—I hate them]],
- 14 counsel and skill are mine,
I possess mind and might.
- 15 It is by me that monarchs reign,
and rulers deal out justice,
- 16 by me that great men govern,
and magnates rule the earth.
- 17 Those who love me, I love them,
and those who seek me find me.
- 18 I hold wealth and honour,
grandeur and good fortune;
- 19 what I yield is better than the best of gold,
what I bring in is better than rare silver.
- 20 I deal quite fairly,
justly do I act,
- 21 enriching those who love me,
and filling their stores full.
- 22 The Eternal formed me first of his creation,
first of all his works in days of old;
- 23 I was fashioned in the earliest ages,
from the very first, when earth began;
- I was born when there were no 24
abysses,
when there were no fountains full of water;
ere he sunk the bases of the 25
mountains,
ere the hills existed, I was born,
when the earth and fields were 26
not created,
nor the very first clods of the world.
- When he set the heavens up, I 27
was there,
when he drew the Vault o'er the abyss,
when he made the clouds firm 28
overhead,
when he fixed the fountains of the deep,
when he set the boundaries of 29
the sea,
when he laid foundations for the earth,
- I was with him then, his foster-child,
I was his delight day after day,
playing in his presence constantly,
playing here and there over 31
his world,
finding my delight in human-kind.
- Now listen to me, children, 32
listen to instruction and get 33
wisdom,
do not refuse my counsel.
For happy are they who hold to 32
me,
happy the man who listens to 34
me,
daily at my gate on the watch,
waiting at my doorway.
- He who finds me finds life, 35
and he wins favour from the Eternal;
he who ignores me injures him- 36
self,

- for all who hate me are in love
with death."
- 9 Wisdom has built her mansion,
and set up her seven pillars;
2 her beasts are slain, her wines
are blended,
her table is prepared;
3 she has sent her maidens out to
cry
on the thoroughfares of the
city,
4 "Let all who are heedless turn
in here!"
She calls to him who is devoid
of sense,
5 "Come, eat my bread,
drink wines that I have
blended,
6 leave your foolish ways and live,
follow the ways of thoughtful
sense."
- 13 Folly is loud and alluring,
she knows no sense of shame,
14 but sits at the door of her
mansion,
on the thoroughfares of the
city,
15 and calls to passers-by
as they go on their way,
16 "Let all who are heedless turn
in here!"
She calls to him who is devoid
of sense,
17 "Sweet are stolen waters,
bread in secret is delicious!"
18 Little he knows that dead men
are within,
the guests of Death!
- 7 He who corrects a scoffer only
gets insulted,
he who reproves a rascal is
reviled for it.
8 Reprove not a scoffer, or he may
hate you:
reprove a man of sense, and
he will love you.
9 Instruct a man of sense, and he
will gain more sense;
- teach a good man, and he will
learn the more.
The first thing in knowledge is 10
reverence for the Eternal,
to know the Deity is what
knowledge means;
this will multiply your days 11
and increase the years of your
life.
If you are wise, your wisdom 12
avails for yourself;
if you are a scoffer, you—
you have to suffer for it.
* * *
Maxims of Solomon. 10
A sensible son is a joy to his
father,
but a senseless son is a grief to
his mother.
Ill-gotten gains are never a 2
profit:
'tis honesty that secures life
for man.
The Eternal never stints an 3
honest man:
he thwarts the craving of dis-
honest men.
A slack hand makes men poor: 4
a busy hand makes men rich.
He who reaps in summer is a 5
man of sense:
he who sleeps through har-
vest does a shameful thing.
God's blessing is upon the good 6
man's head,
but the bad man's face shall
be darkened with disas-
ter.
The memory of the upright is 7
blessed,
but cursed shall be the name
of wicked men.
A man of sense defers to au- 8
thority:
a silly chatterer comes to
grief.
The upright life is safe and sure. 9
but crooked courses shall fare
badly.
He makes trouble who winks 10
maliciously:

- a frank rebuke will make for peace.
- 11 The talk of good men is a life-giving fountain:
the talk of bad men overflows with harm.
- 12 Hatred stirs up strife:
love draws a veil over all wrongdoing.
- 13 Good sense is on the lips of the intelligent,
but folly lies in the talk of senseless men.
- 14 Sensible men are reticent,
but a fool's babbling will bring trouble down.
- 15 A rich man's wealth is his protection,
but poverty is the ruin of the poor.
- 16 A good man's earnings lead to life:
a bad man's gain is the undoing of him.
- 17 He who accepts advice is safe:
he who will not be warned is in danger.
- 18 The good man will not vent his hate;
and he is a fool who spreads a slander.
- 19 Where words abound, sin is not wanting:
he who controls his tongue is a wise man.
- 20 Good men's talk is like rare silver:
a bad man's views are little worth.
- 21 The words of good men will make many wise,
but a fool's lack of sense is death to himself.
- 22 'Tis the Eternal's blessing that brings wealth,
and never does it bring trouble as well.
- 23 Wrongdoing is the fool's delight,
but to a man of sense it is disgusting.
- Whatever a bad man fears will 24
befall him,
but a good man's repose will last for ever.
- When the storm sweeps by, the 25
wicked are gone,
but the just are rooted for ever.
- As vinegar to the teeth, as 26
smoke in the eyes,
so is a sluggard to those who give him a message.
- Reverence for the Eternal is the 27
prolonging of life,
but the years of evil men are shortened.
- The hopes of good men end in 28
bliss:
bad men lose what they look for.
- For the upright the Eternal is a 29
fortress,
but he is the ruin of evil-doers.
- Good men will never be dis- 30
placed,
but the wicked have no footing in the land.
- The talk of good men puts forth 31
buds of wisdom,
but men of false tongue shall be felled.
- The speech of good men is a 32
breath of pleasure,
but bad men talking breathe out malice.
- A false balance is loathsome to 11
the Eternal,
but a proper weight is his delight.
- When pride comes, disgrace 2
comes too:
modest men show good sense.
- The upright are kept straight 3
by their own honesty:
dishonest men are ruined by their vice.
- On the day of God's anger 4
wealth is of no avail:
goodness alone saves man from death.

- 5 The path of a right-minded man is cleared by his own goodness,
but a bad man is overturned by his own badness.
 - 6 Upright men are safe, through their goodness,
but crafty men are caught by their own schemes.
 - 7 When a good man dies, his hope is never lost:
the bad man's vaunting hope is lost.
 - 8 The good man is brought safe out of adversity:
the bad man takes his place!
 - 9 A godless man would ruin his neighbour with slander,
but the good man is cautious and escapes.
 - 10 When good men prosper, the city rejoices:
when bad men perish, there are shouts of joy.
 - 11 A city is exalted by the success of the upright,
and overthrown by the policy of knaves.
 - 12 A man who mocks at his neighbour has no sense:
the prudent man will hold his tongue.
 - 13 A gossiping fellow will betray secrets,
but a trustworthy man will keep a confidence.
 - 14 For lack of statesmanship, a nation sinks:
the saving of it is a wealth of counsellors.
 - 15 He who goes bail for someone else will suffer:
he who loathes being a surety is in a sure position.
 - 16 A charming woman wins respect:
high-handed men win only wealth.
 - 17 A kind man helps his own life:
a cruel man harms himself.
- It is not real what a bad man gains,
but goodness yields a lasting profit.
 - It makes for life, to set one's heart on goodness:
the fatal thing is to be bent on evil.
 - Evil-minded men are loathsome to the Eternal,
but a blameless life is his delight.
 - Be sure of this: bad men never go unpunished,
but all is well with the good.
 - A golden ring in the snout of a sow,
and a pretty woman without sense!
 - What good men desire ends in their favour:
a bad man's hope ends in the wrath of God.
 - One gives away, and still he grows the richer:
another keeps what he should give, and is the poorer.
 - A liberal soul will be enriched,
and he who waters will himself be watered.
 - He who holds corn up, the people curse him:
they bless the man who sells it.
 - He whose aims are good wins the goodwill of God:
he whose aims are evil, evil shall befall him.
 - He who relies on his wealth shall wither,
but a good man blooms like a green leaf.
 - He who stints his household ends with empty hands—
a fool like that becomes a wise man's slave.
 - Life thrives like a tree on generosity,
but grasping greed is death to men.
 - If good men are punished on the earth,

- how much more the sinful and the evil!
- 12 He who cares to know cares to be set right,
but he who hates to be admonished is a stupid creature.
- 2 A good-natured man has the goodwill of the Eternal,
but He passes sentence on malicious men.
- 3 No man can hold his own by doing wrong,
but never shall the good man be uprooted.
- 4 A good wife is an honour to her husband:
a shameless wife rots all his strength away.
- 5 The aims of a good man are honourable:
the plans of a bad man are underhand.
- 6 Knaves speak of secret bloodshed,
but men are helped by plans of honest men.
- 7 When bad men are thrown down they disappear:
a good man's house stands firm.
- 8 A man is praised as he shows insight:
a brainless creature is despised.
- 9 Better a man of low rank, with a servant,
than one who makes a show and has to do his own work.
- 10 A good man cares even for his beast,
but the bad man has a cruel heart.
- 11 The man who works his farm has plenty of food:
a man of useless interests has no sense.
- 12 Vice proves a net for vicious men,
but a good man's root remains untouched.
- By sins of the lips bad men get 13
into trouble:
good men get out of trouble.
- A man reaps the result of all his 14
words,
and he must answer for his deeds.
- A fool is sure that his own way 15
is right:
sensible men will listen to advice.
- A fool shows instantly that he is 16
angry:
a prudent man ignores an insult.
- A man who gives true evidence 17
furtheres justice:
a dishonest witness furtheres injustice.
- A reckless tongue wounds like a 18
sword,
but there is healing power in thoughtful words.
- Truth told endures: 19
a lie lasts only for a little.
- Fraud is the aim of evil-minded 20
men,
but those who plan the good of others prosper.
- Injustice is no pleasure to the 21
good,
but evil men are full of all injustice.
- Liars are loathsome to the 22
Eternal,
but the sincere are a delight to him.
- No cautious man blurts out all 23
that he knows,
but a fool comes out with his folly.
- The diligent will get the upper 24
hand,
but slothful men will end as serfs.
- Worry weighs a man down: 25
a kind word cheers him up.
- The good man gives a lead to his 26
neighbour,
but a bad man's life leads himself astray.

- The lazy man will not hunt
game for himself:
a diligent man is a rare treasure.
- To live aright is the way to live
for long:
wrongdoing is the road to
death.
- A sensible son heeds what his
father tells him,
but a scoffer will not listen to
rebuke.
- A good man reaps the fruit of
his goodness,
but evil souls come to an un-
timely end.
- He guards his life who guards
his lips:
he who talks freely—it is ruin
to him!
- The lazy man longs, but he gets
nothing:
the diligent man is amply sup-
plied.
- A good man hates deception:
an evil life is odious and dis-
graceful.
- Goodness safeguards men of in-
tegrity,
but vice is the downfall of
sinful men.
- One man pretends to be rich,
though he has nothing:
another pretends to be poor,
though he has plenty.
- A rich man may buy off his
life:
a poor man can ignore the
robber's threat.
- The light of good men shines
out bright:
the lamp of bad men will go
out.
- 'Tis insolence that leads to
strife,
but wise men give themselves
no airs.
- Wealth won in haste will
dwindle,
but, gathered gradually, it
will grow.
- Hope deferred is sickening: 12
it is new life to have desire
fulfilled.
- He who despises God's decree 13
shall perish:
to stand in awe of God's com-
mands is safety.
- A sage's teaching is a fount of 14
life,
it shows how to evade the
nets of Death.
- A man of tact is popular: 15
the way fools live stirs up dis-
like.
- A shrewd man never vaunts his 16
wisdom,
but fools display their folly.
- A careless messenger is a calam- 17
ity:
with a reliable envoy, all is
well.
- Poverty and shame are his who 18
will not take advice,
but he who takes a warning
comes to honour.
- It is delicious to obtain the 19
heart's desire . . .
but fools hate to give up evil-
doing.
- Mix with wise men, and you will 20
be wise,
but a companion of fools will
come to grief.
- Misfortune follows up the sinful, 21
but prosperity will overtake
the pious.
- A pious man leaves wealth to 22
his children's children:
the sinner lays up treasure—
to enrich the good!
- Good men enjoy their wealth 23
for many a year,
but bad men perish rapidly.
- He hates his son who fails to ply 24
the rod:
the man who loves his son
chastises him.
- The good man has enough to 25
meet his needs:
wicked men are in want of
food.

- 14 Wisdom builds the house of life:
frivolity pulls it down.
- 2 An honest life shows reverence for the Eternal:
a wayward life despises him.
- 3 A fool's talk brings a rod across his back,
but men of sense are safe with what they say.
- 4 No oxen, no corn:
good crops come from the work done by the ox.
- 5 An honest witness never tells a falsehood,
but a dishonest witness utters lies.
- 6 The scoffer seeks in vain for wisdom,
but knowledge is easy to a serious man.
- 7 Withdraw from an impatient man;
you will not find one word of sense in him.
- 8 Shrewd men are wise in grasping their affairs,
but the folly of a fool leads him astray.
- 9 Guilt harbours among fools,
God's favour among upright men.
- 10 The heart knows its own bitter misery,
and no outsider shares its joy.
- 13 Even in laughter the heart may be aching,
and joy may end in sorrow.
- 11 The house of the wicked shall be destroyed,
but the dwelling of the upright shall flourish.
- 12 What man thinks a right course,
may end upon the road to death.
- 14 He who goes wrong must take the consequences:
the good man reaps the harvest of his deeds.
- 15 The simpleton believes what he is told:
the shrewd man watches where he goes.
- A man of sense is cautious and 16
shuns harm,
but a fool goes into it jauntily.
- A man of quick temper will do 17
foolish things,
but a prudent man will be patient.
- What simpletons acquire is 18
folly:
shrewd men will pick up knowledge.
- Bad men must bow before the 19
good,
and wicked men must supplicate the just.
- The poor man is hateful even to 20
his neighbour,
but the rich has many a friend.
- A man sins if he looks down on 21
his neighbour;
but if he pities the poor, blessed is he.
- Do not evil-minded men fare 22
miserably?
Good-natured men find people kind and true.
- In all labour there is profit: 23
mere talk only tends to penury.
- The crown of wise men is their 24
wisdom:
the coronet of fools is their own folly.
- An honest witness will save life; 25
but one who tells a lie destroys life.
- He who reverences the Eternal 26
has strong ground for confidence;
his very children win security.
- Reverence for the Eternal is a 27
fount of life,
it shows how to evade the nets of Death.
- When a nation swarms, it is the 28
monarch's glory:

- when a nation is scanty, it is
the king's scathe.
- 29 To be forbearing is to show
great sense:
the height of folly is to be
quick-tempered.
- 30 A mind at ease is life and health,
but passion makes man rot
away.
- 31 He who is hard on the forlorn
reviles his Maker:
he honours his Maker who is
kindly to the poor.
- 32 A bad man is brought down by
his own evil-doing,
but the good man may trust
to his integrity.
- 33 Wisdom settles in the mind of
thoughtful men,
folly in the mind of the
thoughtless.
- 34 Integrity exalts a nation:
evil brings any people low.
- 35 The king favours an able min-
ister:
his anger is for the incom-
petent.
- 15 A mild reply turns wrath aside,
but a sharp word will stir up
anger.
- 2 Knowledge distils from wise dis-
course:
folly gushes from the dis-
course of fools.
- 3 The eyes of the Eternal are in
every place,
keeping watch upon the
wicked and the good.
- 4 A soothing tongue means life
and peace,
but wild words wound.
- 5 A senseless fellow scorns his
father's counsel,
but he who listens to reproof
shows his good sense.
- 6 In a good man's house there is
ample treasure,
but revenues of bad men go
to wreck.
- 7 Wise men's discourse diffuses
knowledge, ..
- but a fool's mind will never
master it.
- Sacrifice from evil men is loath- 8
some to the Eternal,
but the prayers of upright
men are his delight.
- A wicked life is loathsome to 9
the Eternal:
he loves the man bent upon
honesty.
- There is stern punishment for 10
him who breaks away;
he who will not be warned
shall die.
- Death and the world of the 11
dead lie open to the Eter-
nal;
how much more the hearts of
men!
- A scoffer never cares to be cor- 12
rected,
he will not mix with men of
sense.
- A glad heart makes a cheerful face, 13
but a sad heart breaks the
spirit.
- For the hapless, every day is 15
hard,
but a cheerful heart is an end-
less feast.
- The thoughtful mind is eager to 14
know more,
but a fool's heart is taken up
with folly.
- Better a little, with reverence 16
for the Eternal,
than large wealth with worry.
- Better a dish of vegetables, with 17
love,
than the best beef served
with hatred.
- An ill-tempered man stirs up 18
disputes,
but a forbearing man
smoothes strife away.
- The lazy man finds life beset 19
with thorns;
the diligent find it a well-
paved road.
- A sensible son is a joy to his 20
father,

- but a fool of a man despises
his mother.
- 21 Folly is a delight to senseless
men,
but a man of sense leads a
straightforward life.
- 22 When no one is consulted, plans
are foiled:
when many are consulted,
they succeed.
- 23 Apt answers are a joy to men;
a word in season, what a help
it is!
- 24 The wise man's road winds up-
ward into life;
he shuns the downward path
to death.
- 25 The Eternal overthrows the
proud man's house,
but he preserves the widow's
field intact.
- 26 Crafty schemes are loathsome to
the Eternal,
but friendly words are a de-
light to him.
- 27 A grasping nature is its own un-
doing,
but he who hates a bribe shall
prosper.
- 28 A good man ponders what to
say:
bad men let out a flood of evil
talk.
- 29 The Eternal keeps the wicked at
a distance;
he listens to a good man's
prayer.
- 30 Good fortune is the joy of life,
good news is health and
vigour.
- 31 A man who listens to healthy
reproof
will rank among wise men.
- 32 He wrongs himself who will not
be set right,
but he who listens to reproof
gains sense.
- 33 Reverence for the Eternal trains
men to be wise,
and to be humble is the way
to honour.
- A man may think what he will 16
say,
but at the moment the word
comes to him from the
Eternal.
- A man's ways seem all right to 2
himself,
but the Eternal has the ver-
dict on his life.
- Trust your affairs to the Eternal, 3
and your plans shall prosper.
- The Eternal has made every- 4
thing for an end of its
own—
yes, and the wicked for their
day of doom!
- Anyone who is defiant is loath- 5
some to the Eternal;
be sure of this, he shall not go
unpunished.
- Kindness and loyalty atone for 6
sin;
by reverence for the Eternal
men avoid punishment.
- When the ways of man please 7
the Eternal,
He makes even his foes
friends with him.
- Better a little with honesty, 8
than a large income with in-
justice.
- A man thinks out his plans, 9
but the Eternal controls his
course.
- Unerring is a king's decree: 10
never are his rulings wrong.
- Balances and scales are con- 11
trolled by the king,
weights and measures are his
concern.
- Kings have a horror of wrong- 12
doing,
for the throne is maintained
by justice.
- Honest talk is the delight of 13
kings;
they love a man who tells the
truth.
- A deadly thing is the king's 14
anger;

- a sensible man will try to
pacify it.
- 15 When the king's face is friendly,
all is well;
his favour is like rain-clouds
in the spring.
- 16 Better get wisdom than gold,
better choose knowledge than
silver.
- 17 The path of the upright avoids
misfortune;
he safeguards life who
watches where he goes.
- 18 Pride ends in disaster;
haughtiness means a downfall.
- 19 Better be modest among poor
folk
than divide plunder with the
proud.
- 20 He shall prosper who heeds
God's command;
he who relies on the Eternal,
happy is he.
- 21 A wise man is esteemed for being
pleasant;
his friendly words add to his
influence.
- 22 The thoughtful find their wis-
dom adds to life,
but the fool suffers for his
folly.
- 23 Good sense makes men judicious
in their talk,
it adds persuasiveness to
what they say.
- 24 Kindly words are like a honey-
comb,
both sweet and healthful.
- 25 What man thinks a right
course
may end upon the road to
death.
- 26 A labourer's appetite labours
for him;
his hunger drives him to
work.
- the tell-tale divides friend
from friend.
- The knave misleads his neigh- 29
bour,
and draws him into evil
courses.
- The slanderer concocts a lie, 30
the detractor has designs of
mischief.
- Grey hairs are a crown of 31
honour,
gained by a good life.
- A forbearing man is better than 32
a fighting man;
he who controls himself is
better than a conqueror.
- The lot is thrown into the 33
lap,
but the issue lies only with
the Eternal.
- Better a morsel of dry bread and 17
peace
than a house full of ban-
queting and quarrels.
- An able slave is put over a 2
profligate son;
he shares the property with
the brothers.
- The smelter for silver, the 3
furnace for gold,
and the Eternal for testing
the heart.
- Only a base man listens to mali- 4
cious words;
only the false attend to mis-
chievous talk.
- A man who mocks the unfor- 5
tunate arraigns his Maker;
he who rejoices at their woes
shall not go unpunished.
- Grandchildren are the crown of 6
an old man,
and the glory of children is
their father.
- Talk about virtue is not for a 7
churl;
much less are lies for a noble
soul!
- A bribe is a lucky stone, its 8
owner thinks;

- it brings him luck at every turn.
- 9 He fosters good feeling who keeps quiet about some wrong:
the man who gossips about it divides friend from friend.
- 10 A rebuke sinks deeper into a man of sense than a hundred lashes into a fool.
- 12 Better meet a bear robbed of her whelps than a fool in his folly.
- 11 Rebels are out for mischief, but the king will send a cruel force against them.
- 13 He who returns evil for good, evil never leaves his house.
- 14 Strife starts with idle words: cease arguing or you will quarrel.
- 15 He who acquits the guilty and he who condemns the innocent, the Eternal loathes the pair of them.
- 16 Why does a fool offer the sage a fee, when he has no mind to learn?
- 17 A friend is always a friend, he is a born brother for adversity.
- 18 He is devoid of sense who goes bail, who becomes surety for another man.
- 19 He who is fond of strife is fond of getting wounded; he who talks arrogantly courts disaster.
- 20 A false heart never comes to any good; a false tongue comes to grief.
- 21 A fool is born to be a sorrow to his father; there is no joy for the father of an idiot.
- 25 A silly son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him.
- A glad heart helps and heals: 22
a broken spirit saps vitality.
- Bad men accept a secret bribe, 23
to twist the course of justice.
- The thoughtful are absorbed in 24
wisdom,
but a fool's eyes roam far and wide.
- It is not fair to fine the innocent, 26
and most unfair to scourge a noble soul.
- A man of sense is sparing of his 27
words;
the prudent will keep cool.
- Even a fool may pass for wise, 28
if he says nothing;
with closed lips he may be deemed sensible.
- A slanderer is always on the 18
outlook,
he will do anything to make mischief.
- A fool has no delight in learning, 2
but only in displaying what he is.
- Vice leads to contempt, 3
and shameful ways to scorn.
- The words of wise men are a 4
deep pool,
a flowing stream, a fountain of life.
- It is not fair to favour the guilty, 5
or to decide against the innocent.
- A fool's talk gets him into 6
trouble,
his tongue brings him a beating.
- A fool's tongue is the ruin of 7
him,
his talk is a snare to himself.
- The words of a slanderer are 8
like dainty morsels,
swallowed and relished to the full.
- A man slack at his work 9
is as bad as a waster.
- The Eternal is a tower of 10
strength:

- good men run in and are secure.
- 11 A rich man's wealth is his stronghold,
like a bulwark—so he thinks!
- 12 Haughtiness ends in disaster:
to be humble is the way to honour.
- 13 To answer a question before you have heard it,
is silly and shameful.
- 14 A man of spirit bears his trouble,
but who can bear a broken spirit?
- 15 The thoughtful mind is eager to know more;
the wise man longs to learn.
- 16 A present paves the way for any suitor,
it wins him access to authorities.
- 17 The man who pleads first seems to be right;
then comes the other man and sifts his case.
- 18 The lot ends a dispute,
and decides between powerful parties.
- 19 A man backed by his brother is in a strong position,
as well placed as a powerful citadel.
- 20 A man must answer for his utterances,
and take the consequences of his words.
- 21 Death and life are determined by the tongue:
the talkative must take the consequences.
- 22 To gain a good wife is to gain a fortune,
a boon bestowed by the Eternal.
- 23 Poor men entreat:
the rich give a rough answer.
- 24 There are friends who only bring one loss:
there is a friend who is more loyal than a brother.
- Better a poor man of honest life 19
than a false man, for all his wealth.
- It is no use to act before you 2
think:
to be hasty is to miss the mark.
- A man's own folly ruins his 3
affairs—
then he gets angry with the Eternal!
- Wealth brings many a friend, 4
but a poor man's only friend will leave him.
- A dishonest witness shall not go 5
unpunished:
he who tells lies shall not escape.
- Many pay court to a bountiful 6
man:
all are friends of a man who gives presents.
- If all a poor man's kindred hate 7
him,
how much more will his friends hold aloof?
- He who grows wise is a friend 8
to himself;
he who understands life will fare well.
- A dishonest witness shall not go 9
unpunished;
he who tells lies shall perish.
- Luxury is not fitting for a fool, 10
much less for a slave to lord it over nobles.
- A man's prudence will make 11
him slow to take offence:
to pass over an offence is his glory.
- The anger of a king is like a 12
lion's roar;
his favour is like dew on grass.
- A senseless son is a calamity to 13
his father,
and the nagging of a wife is an endless dripping.
- House and riches a man inherits 14
from his father,
but a sensible wife comes from the Eternal.

- 15 Laziness ends in a deep sleep;
an idle man shall be hungry.
- 16 He who obeys the law of God
safeguards his life;
a man careless of God will die.
- 17 He who cares for the poor is
lending to the Eternal,
and for his kindness he shall
be repaid.
- 18 Chastise your son, while there is
still hope of him,
and do not let him run to ruin.
- 19 A man who is fined is furious,
but, even if you pay for him,
you will have to pay again.
- 20 Listen to counsel and take ad-
vice,
that you may manage your
life wisely.
- 21 Man thinks out many a plan,
but 'tis the Eternal's purpose
that prevails.
- 22 Friendliness bears fruit for a
man:
better be poor and good than
false.
- 23 Reverence for the Eternal is the
way to life;
content with that, one never
comes to harm.
- 24 The lazy man drops his hand
deep in the dish;
he will not so much as lift it
to his lips.
- 25 Beat a scoffer and you teach
fools a lesson:
a man of sense needs only a
reproof.
- 26 He who ill-treats his father and
expels his mother
is a vile, despicable son.
- 27 Cease not, my son, to listen to
instruction,
and never turn away from a
wise teacher.
- 28 A rascal of a witness scoffs at
justice,
and perjury pours from a
scoundrel's lips.
- 29 Punishment is prepared for
scoffers,
and the lash for the back of a
fool.
- Wine means mockery, liquor 20
means brawling;
there is no sense in reeling
under drink.
- A king's threat scares men, like 2
a lion roaring;
he who provokes him is in
danger.
- It does men honour to keep 3
clear of strife:
a fool quarrels with everyone.
- In the cold season a lazy man 4
will not plough,
so he expects a crop in vain at
harvest.
- A man's mind may lie deep as 5
water in a well,
but a clever man will draw it
from him.
- Many a person is called kind, 6
but a trustworthy man is a
rare find.
- A blameless, upright man— 7
happy are the children who
come after him!
- A monarch seated on the throne 8
of justice
scatters all crime before him.
- Who can say, "I have made my 9
heart clean,
I am pure and sinless"?
Different weights and different 10
measures,
the Eternal loathes them
alike.
- Even a child is known by what 11
he does,
as he behaves well or ill.
- The ear that hears, the eye that 12
sees,
the Eternal made them both.
- Love not sleep, lest you fall into 13
poverty:
waken, and you will have
ample food.
- "Poor stuff! poor stuff!" a man 14
says, as he buys;
but when he leaves, he boasts
about his bargain.

- 15 Gold, wealth of rubies, jewels
rare—
such are wise words.
- 16 He has gone bail for a man?—
then seize him!
hold him to what he has
pledged!
- 17 Food won by fraud has a sweet
taste,
but later on the mouth gets
filled with gravel.
- 18 Take counsel when you form a
plan,
and have some policy when
you make war.
- 19 Talebearers let out secrets:
have nothing to do with a
gossip.
- 20 He who curses his father or his
mother,
his lamp of life will go out in
black darkness.
- 21 Money made hurriedly at the
start
turns out unblessed at the
end.
- 22 Never say, "I will revenge my
wrongs";
wait for the Eternal to help
you.
- 23 Different weights are loathsome
to the Eternal;
a false balance is unfair.
- 24 Man's movements are controlled
by the Eternal;
then how can any understand
his life?
- 25 'Tis perilous to say rashly,
"This is sacred!"
and then reconsider your vow.
- 26 A wise king scatters wicked
men;
he drives hard over them.
- 27 Man's conscience is the lamp of
the Eternal,
flashing into his inmost soul.
- 28 Kindness and duty are a king's
safeguard;
his throne rests upon justice.
- 29 A young man's strength is his
charm;
and grey hairs make an old
man beautiful.
- Blows and bruises tell for good; 30
they go deep into the very
soul.
- The Eternal sways the king's 21
heart like a water-course;
he turns it as he pleases.
- Man's ways are always right in 2
his own eyes,
but the Eternal has the ver-
dict on his life.
- Justice and fairness 3
please the Eternal more than
sacrifices.
- Haughty looks, a proud heart, 4
showy splendour—it is all
sin.
- A diligent soul will have plenty, 5
but lazy creatures will all end
in poverty.
- A man making money by fraud 6
chases a bubble to his own
doom.
- The evil are undone by their 7
own tyranny,
since they will not deal justly.
- The insolent follow a crooked 8
course:
the good man's life is straight.
- Better a corner on the roof 9
than a room with a nagging
wife.
- Bad men are bent on doing 10
harm;
none wins a kindly thought
from them.
- When a scoffer is punished, the 11
fool gets a lesson:
men of sense learn by being
taught.
- A just God cares for the good, 12
but he brings down the
wicked with a crash.
- He who is deaf to the cry of the 13
poor,
one day his own cry shall be
never heard.
- A secret bribe appeases anger, 14
a present slipped into the
hand will allay fury.

- 15 Justice done is a delight to
good men,
and dismay to evildoers.
- 16 A man who wanders out of the
right road
will find his rest among the
dead below.
- 17 He who is fond of pleasure will
grow poor;
he who is fond of wine and oil
never grows rich.
- 18 The evil have to pay the pen-
alty;
the faithless are punished,
not the upright.
- 19 Better live in a lonely desert
than beside a nagging, quar-
relsome woman.
- 20 The provident store up precious
treasure,
only to have it squandered
by a fool.
- 21 By following justice and kind-
ness,
a man finds long life and wins
honour.
- 22 A clever man can scale a
mighty city,
and lay the vaunted strong-
hold low.
- 23 He who is careful of his lips and
tongue
will manage to keep clear of
trouble.
- 24 A man who acts with insolent
disdain,
an arrogant, haughty man—
the name for him is
"scoffer."
- 25 A lazy man's case is his undoing,
for his hands will not labour;
- 26 all the day long he rests at ease—
while the good man works on
unceasing.
- 27 Sacrifice from evil men God
loathes—
much more, when it is offered
to atone for crime.
- 28 A dishonest witness shall perish,
but a truthful man will never
be forgotten.
- Rascals are impudent, 29
but honest men watch them-
selves anxiously.
- Intelligence, skill, strategy— 30
none can avail against the
Eternal.
- Chargers are harnessed for the 31
battle,
but saving victory comes
from the Eternal.
- Reputation is a better choice 22
than riches;
esteem is more than money.
- Rich and poor stand side by 2
side:
it was the Eternal who made
them all.
- A cautious man sees danger and 3
takes cover:
a simpleton strolls on—and
pays for it.
- On crooked courses men step 5
into snares:
a careful man avoids them.
- The humble and the reverent 4
are rewarded
with wealth and honour and
long life.
- Train a child for his proper 6
trade,
and he will never leave it,
even when he is old.
- The rich rule over the poor, 7
and the borrower is a slave to
the lender.
- A man who sows evil has a 8
harvest of trouble;
his labour goes for nothing.
- A generous man will have God's 9
blessing,
because he shares his food
with poor folk.
- Get rid of a scoffer, and quarrels 10
cease,
disputes and insults are no
more.
- The Eternal loves a pure heart; 11
kings love courtly speech.
- The Eternal is keen-eyed, alert; 12
he foils the plans of faithless
men.

- 13 The sluggard says, "There's a lion outside,"
or, "I shall be murdered in the street."
- 14 The wiles of a loose woman are a deep, deep pit;
a man under God's anger falls into it.
- 15 Folly clings to the mind of a child;
the rod will drive it away.
- 16 A man may crush the poor and so be rich,
but presents to the rich will only make him poor.
- 17 Bend your ear, listen to wise words,
study to understand their charm;
- 18 ever keep them in mind,
all ready on your lips.
- 19 I am still teaching you my truths,
that you may rely on the Eternal.
- 20 But have I not written them for you already,
instructions about knowledge,
- 21 that you might understand them for yourself,
and answer all inquirers?
- 22 Rob not the poor because he is poor,
waste not the weak with lawsuits;
- 23 for the Eternal will take their part,
he will rob robbers of their life.
- 24 Never join any man who gets angry,
never deal with a hot-tempered man;
- 25 for you may learn his ways
and land yourself in danger.
- 26 Never be one of those who give bail,
who are sureties for debts;
- for if you have nothing to pay,
your very bed will be seized.
- Remove not an ancient landmark,
set up by your fathers.
- You see a man skilful at his work?
He shall enter the service of kings,
not the service of obscure men.
- When you are sitting at a ruler's table,
be careful how you eat;
control yourself,
if you have a large appetite.
- Toil not to grow rich;
renounce that aim:
wealth is no sooner seen than gone,
it makes wings for itself,
like an eagle flying skyward.
- Never dine with a niggardly man,
never fancy his dainties;
he counts his dishes,
even as he bids you "Eat and drink—"
he has no mind to you;
your gorge will rise at what he swallows,
for he deceives you as he feeds you.
- Never talk to a fool,
for he will despise your words of wisdom;
you are throwing away your fine sayings.
- Remove not a widow's landmark,
encroach not on the orphans' estate;
for they have a mighty Champion,
who will take their part against you.
- Apply your mind to instruction,
attend to words of knowledge;

- 23 buy truth, never part with it,
buy wisdom, sense, and knowl-
edge.
- 13 Leave not your child un-
punished;
if you whip him you save him
from death.
- 14 You must whip him with the
rod,
and so preserve his life.
- 15 My son, if you are wise,
I shall indeed be joyful;
- 16 my heart will be glad
to hear wise words from you.
- 17 Never envy evil men,
but always reverence the
Eternal;
- 18 for something will yet come to
you,
your hope will not be lost.
- 19 Listen, my son, and be wise,
be guided by good sense:
- 20 never sit down with tipsy men
or among gluttons;
- 21 the drunkard and the glutton
come to poverty,
and revelling leaves men in
rags.
- 22 Listen to your own father,
and despise not your old
mother;
- 25 make your father glad,
your mother happy;
- 24 for a good man's father will
rejoice,
and a sensible son brings joy
to his mother.
- 26 Attend to me, my son,
mark my injunctions:
- 27 for a harlot is a deep, deep pit,
a loose woman is a narrow
pit;
- 28 yes, and she lies in wait like a
robber,
and many a man she plunders.
- 29 Who shriek? who groan?
Who quarrel and grumble?
- Who are bruised for nothing?
Who have bleary eyes?
Those who linger over the bot- 30
tle,
those who relish blended
wines.
- So look not on the wine so red, 31
that sparkles in the cup;
it glides down smoothly at the
first,
but in the end it bites like any 32
snake,
it stings you like an adder.
- You will be seeing odd things, 33
you will be saying queer
things:
you will be like a man asleep at 34
sea,
asleep in the midst of a storm;
you will mutter, "I was hit, not 35
hurt,
I was beaten, but I feel
nothing!
- When ever will morning come,
till I can get drunk again?"
- Never envy evil men, 24
never seek their company;
for their one thought is plunder, 2
and mischief is their theme.
- What builds a house is skill, 3
it is erected by intelligence;
and knowledge furnishes the 4
rooms
with all that is rare and
pleasant.
- Wise men are better than war- 5
riors,
brain is better than brawn;
for you need policy in war: 6
what saves the state is many
a counsellor.
- Wisdom is beyond a fool's reach, 7
so he can say nothing in a
council.
- A man who devises mischief, 8
men call him a schemer.

- 9 Now sin is folly's scheme,
and men loathe mischief-
makers. they can crush you swiftly, 22
they can destroy you sud-
denly. * * *
- 10 If you have been slack, then
your means will be small
when adversity comes. Further sayings of the sages. 23
It is not fair to favour one side
in a suit.
- 11 Rescue men carried off to
death,
deliver any who go trembling
to their doom. He who tells a man in the wrong, 24
"You are right,"
men will curse him, people
will denounce him.
- 12 You say, "But I knew nothing
of it"?
Yet he who reads the heart
sees through you,
he knows, he who watches
you—
will he not requite each man
for what he did? He is a true friend 26
who is honest with you:
those who reprove shall prosper, 25
good fortune shall be theirs.
- 13 My son, eat honey—it is good,
and honeycombs so sweet:
14 so wisdom tastes. First work your farm, 27
and till the soil—
then you can marry and set
up house.
- 15 Villain, hands off the good man's
house!
ransack not his abode. Never give baseless evidence 28
against your neighbour,
never mislead men by what
you say.
- 16 A good man may fall seven
times, but he rises;
an evil man is crushed by a
calamity. Never think, "I will treat him 29
as he treated me,
I will pay back the man for
what he did."
- 17 Rejoice not when your enemy
falls,
never exult when he is over-
thrown; I passed by the field of the sloth- 30
ful,
by the vineyard of the thrift-
less:
and there it lay, all overgrown 31
with thistles,
the surface covered with
nettles,
the stone wall broken down.
- 18 lest the Eternal see it and in dis-
pleasure
divert his wrath from him to
you. I thought upon it as I looked, 32
I learned a lesson from the
sight:
- 19 Never fret over evildoers.
never envy wicked men; "Let me sleep for a little, a little, 33
let me fold my hands for a
little to rest"—
yes, and poverty will pounce on 34
you,
want will overpower you.
* * *
- 21 My son, stand in awe of the
Eternal and of the king,
anger not either; 'The following also are maxims 25
of Solomon, copied out by

- scholars under Hezekiah king of Judah.
- 2 Mystery is God's glory,
but a king's glory is to search
out secrets.
- 3 High as heaven and deep as
earth,
the king's mind is a mystery.
- 4 Take dross from silver,
and the silver shines out pure;
- 5 remove scoundrels from a king,
and his throne will rest on
justice.
- 6 Never claim honour at court,
never push forward among
great men:
- 7 better be told, "Come higher
up,"
then be sent lower down in
presence of the king.
- 8 Never be in a hurry to repeat
something you may have
seen;
for what will you do, later on,
when you are taxed with it?
- 9 Talk the thing over with the
other man,
but never give away his
secret;
- 10 for some hearer may reproach
you,
to your lasting shame.
- 12bA wise reproof laid on a willing
hearer
- 11b is like a golden apple laid on
silver network;
- 12aa golden carring, a necklace of
rare gold—
- 11a an apt word is like that.
- 13 Like snow that cools a harvest
drink,
so is a messenger who can be
trusted:
he is a treat to those who
send him.
- 14 Clouds and wind that bring no
rain—
like him who promises what
he never gives!
- An angry man is pacified by 15
forbearance,
and gentle words abate his
ire.
- If you find honey, eat no more 16
than you need;
you may surfeit yourself and
vomit.
- Go seldom to your neighbour's 17
house;
he may grow tired of you,
and turn against you.
- A club, a sword, a pointed 18
arrow—
so is the man who gives false
evidence against his neigh-
bour.
- A loose tooth, an unsteady 19
foot—
'tis all the faithless have to
support them in their
trouble.
- Singing music to a saddened soul 20
is like dropping vinegar upon
a wound.
- If your enemy is hungry give 21
him food,
and give him water if he
thirsts:
for so you shall quench blazing 22
passions,
and the Eternal will reward
you.
- North winds bring rain: 23
slander brings angry looks.
- Better a corner on the roof 24
than a room with a nagging
wife.
- Like cold water to the thirsty, 25
so good news from a far land
is refreshing.
- A fountain fouled, a spring be- 26
mired—
so is a good man yielding to
the wicked.
- It is bad to indulge overmuch in 27
honey;
so be sparing of your compli-
ments.
- A man with no control over 28
himself

- is like a town with broken walls.
- 26 Like snow in summer and rain in harvest,
so honour for a fool is out of place.
- 2 The sparrow flutters, the swallow flits,
and the baseless curse never goes home.
- 3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass,
and a rod for the back of a fool!
- 4 Never answer a fool according to his folly,
lest you become like him:
- 5 answer a fool according to his folly,
lest he imagines he is wise.
- 6 To send a fool with a message is to cut off your own feet—injuring yourself.
- 7 Like the limbs of a lame man, so maxims limp on the lips of a fool.
- 9 Like thorny branches branched by a drunkard,
so are maxims on the lips of a fool.
- 8 Honour conferred upon a fool is like a bag of gems laid on a heap of stones.
- 10 An able man does everything himself:
a fool hires the first passer-by.
- 11 A dog goes back to his vomit, and a fool repeats his folly.
- 12 You see a man of self-conceit? More hope for a fool than for him!
- 13 The sluggard says, "Some beast is roaring on the road!
there's a lion outside!"
- 14 The door turns on its hinges, and the lazy man upon his back.
- 15 The lazy man drops his hand deep in the dish;
it tires him even to lift it to his lips.
- The lazy man imagines he is 16
wiser
than a dozen men who argue
ably.
- He catches a passing dog by the 17
ears,
who meddles with a quarrel
not his own.
- Like a lunatic who lets fly 18
deadly brands and arrows,
so is he who deceives his 19
neighbour,
and then says it was in fun.
- The fire goes out when the wood 20
fails,
and quarrels cease when slan-
derers are away.
- Bellows for coals and wood for fire, 21
and a quarrelsome fellow for
kindling strife!
- The words of a slanderer are 22
like dainty morsels,
swallowed and relished to the
full.
- Smooth words and a vicious 23
soul
are silvery dross upon a pot of
clay.
- A man may dissemble his hate 24
when he speaks,
but inwardly he harbours
guile;
- he may speak fair, but never 25
believe him,
for he has many a foul
thought in mind;
- yet, though he hide his hatred 26
craftily,
his malice shall be publicly
exposed.
- Whoever digs a pit shall fall in- 27
to it;
the stone a man sets rolling
recoils upon himself.
- A false tongue is a deadly bane, 28
and flattering lips are fatal.
- Never boast about to-morrow; 27
you never know what a day
may bring.
- Let others praise you, not your- 2
self: .

- not your own lips, but some-
one else.
- 3 A stone is heavy, sand is
weighty;
but a vexatious fool is worse
to bear than both.
- 4 Wrath is fierce, anger is like a
flood,
but who can stand against
jealousy?
- 5 Better a frank word of reproof
than the love that will not
speak.
- 6 Wounds from a friend are
honest,
but an enemy's kisses are false.
- 7 The man who is full disdains a
honeycomb,
but any bitter thing is sweet
to the hungry.
- 8 Like a bird that wanders from
her nest,
so is a man who wanders far
from home.
- 9 Perfume and scent are a delight,
sweet counsel is a strength.
- 10 Drop not a friend who was your
father's friend,
go to his house when you are
in trouble,
for a neighbour near is better
than a brother far away.
- 11 Delight my heart by being
wise, my son,
that I may answer anyone
who taunts me.
- 12 A cautious man sees danger and
takes cover:
a simpleton strolls on—and
pays for it.
- 13 He has gone bail for a man?—
seize him!
hold him to what he has
pledged!
- 14 Loud blessing lavished by one
man on another
is counted to mean cursing.
- 15 An endless dripping on a rainy
day
and a nagging wife are just
the same.
- The north wind is a harsh wind, 16
but it has an auspicious name.
- As iron whets iron, 17
so one man whets another.
- He who tends a fig-tree gets the 18
figs;
he who attends to his master
shall be honoured.
- As one face is like another, 19
so is one mind like another.
- Death and the grave are never 20
satisfied;
neither are man's desires.
- The smelter for silver, the fur- 21
nace for gold,
but man is tested by his
praise.
- Crush a fool with a pestle in the 22
mortar,
but you will never crush the
folly out of him.
- Look well to the state of your 23
flocks,
and be careful of your herds;
for riches do not last for ever, 24
nor wealth from age to age.
- When haytime is over and the 25
aftermath mowed,
and the grass gathered in
from the hills,
your sheep will furnish you with 26
clothing then,
your goats will yield you the
price of a field,
with ample milk to feed you, 27
and to maintain your maids.
- Rascals will run away, though 28
none pursues them:
good men are as bold as
lions.
- Many a mishap crime brings on 2
a country:
good order is maintained by
honest men.
- A tyrant oppressing the poor 3
is like a deluge that leaves no
food behind.
- Apostates praise pagans; 4
the faithful oppose them.

- 5 Bad men know nothing about justice;
devout men understand it all.
- 6 Better a poor man of honest life than a false creature, for all his wealth.
- 7 A sensible son obeys orders, but a friend of dissolute men is a disgrace to his father.
- 8 He who adds to his income by taking interest will lose his money to some charitable soul.
- 9 If a man is deaf to all admonition his very prayer is loathsome to the Eternal.
- 10 He who beguiles the upright into evil shall fall into the very pit he digged;
but the blameless shall prosper.
- 11 Rich men may think that they are wise,
but the poor have wit to see through them.
- 12 When good men win, it is a splendid thing;
when bad men rise to power, the people hide.
- 13 He who covers up his sins shall never prosper;
he who confesses and forsakes them is forgiven.
- 14 Happy the man who lives in fear of sin:
reckless men come to grief.
- 15 A roaring lion, a bear on the prowl—
such is a tyrant over a poor people.
- 16 A cruel oppressor is a fool:
he thrives who scorns all unjust gain.
- 17 [[A homicide must hide wherever he can: let no one shelter him.]]
- 18 A man of blameless life is safe:
pitfalls bring down the man of crooked courses.
- The man who works his farm 19 has plenty of food:
a man of useless interests will have plenty of poverty!
- Trustworthy men are richly 20 blessed:
men in a hurry to get rich incur guilt.
- To favour one side is not fair— 21 to sin, bribed by a bit of bread!
- The selfish man is eager to get 22 rich;
he never dreams he may be in distress.
- In the long run, a man who will 23 reprove gets more thanks than a flatterer.
- Whoever robs his father or his 24 mother,
and says, "There is no harm in it!"
he is no better than a waster.
- A grasping nature stirs disputes. 25 but he who trusts in the Eternal thrives.
- He who trusts in himself is but 26 a fool:
he who lives wisely is secure.
- A man who helps the poor will 27 never want;
he who ignores them will get many a curse.
- When bad men rise to power, 28 the people hide;
when they fall, good men come to the front.
- He who is obstinate, in spite of 29 many a warning,
will suddenly be done for.
- When good men are in power, 2 people rejoice;
but when a bad man rules, the people groan.
- He who loves wisdom is his 3 father's joy:
a friend of harlots wastes his wealth.
- A king will make the country 4 flourish by his justice:

- he who extorts money brings
it low.
- 5 A man who flatters his fellow
is spreading a net to trip him
up.
- 6 A bad man is snared by his own
sin,
but good men can go forward
happily.
- 7 A good man cares for the rights
of the poor;
a bad man has no interest in
them.
- 8 Unscrupulous men kindle strife
in a city:
the sensible discourage party-
spirit.
- 9 If a wise man takes a fool to court,
he gets no peace, whether the
fool storms or laughs.
- 10 Bloodthirsty creatures hate a
blameless man;
the upright plan how to pro-
tect him.
- 11 A fool blurts out his wrath;
a wise man keeps his anger to
himself.
- 12 When a ruler listens to false
accusations,
his servants become scound-
rels.
- 13 The poor and the oppressor
stand side by side:
both get their light of life
from the Eternal.
- 14 If a king governs the poor with
equity,
his throne shall stand for ever.
- 15 The rod of reproof brings wis-
dom:
a child left to himself will
cause his mother shame.
- 16 [[When bad men are in power,
then crime increases;
but good men will yet gloat
over their downfall.]]
- 17 Chastise your son, and have an
easy mind:
he will delight your soul.
- 18 People break loose without a
guiding hand,
but happy are the law-abid-
ing!
- Mere words will never train a 19
slave;
he understands, but he will
not obey.
- A spoiled boy sinks to be a slave, 21
and comes to grief at last.
- You see a hasty man? 20
More hope for a fool than for
him!
- A man of passion stirs up strife; 22
hot temper is the cause of
many a sin.
- Man's pride will lay him low: 23
lowly souls rise to honour.
- The partner of a thief is his own 24
enemy. . . .
- he swears to tell the truth,
and he discloses nothing.
- The fear of man is dangerous; 25
but he who trusts in the Eter-
nal shall be safe.
- Many bespeak a ruler's favour; 26
but a man's fate is fixed by
the Eternal.
- The good man loathes the vil- 27
lain;
the villain loathes the up-
right.
- * * *
- The sayings of Agur the son 30
of Yakeh, from Massa.
- The cry of a man weary with
the quest for God:
"I am weary, O God,
weary and worn in vain;
I am dull as a clod, 2
with no quick brain.
I am no master of thought, 3
of the Deity I know nought.
Who ever climbed to heaven 4
and then came down?
who ever gathered the wind
in his fingers,
or wrapped the waters in a robe
of clouds,
or fixed the bounds of earth?
What is his name, or his son's
name?
You do not know it?"

- 5 God's promises are all tried and true;
those who shelter beside him
he shields.
- 6 Never add to his words,
lest he prove you to be falsi-
fying.
- 7 For two boons from thy hand I
cry
(deny me not, before I die):
- 8 put lies and falsehood far from
me,
give neither wealth nor pov-
erty,
but feed me with the food I
need;
- 9 lest I be full and disclaim thee,
saying, "Who is the Eternal?"
or sink to poverty and steal,
discrediting my God.
- 10 Never slander a slave to his
master:
the slave may curse you, to
your loss.
- 11 Some curse their father,
and bless not their mother.
- 12 Some think that they are pure—
with stains still on them!
- 13 Some lift haughty eyes
and supercilious looks.
- 14 Some have teeth like swords,
and knives within their
mouths,
to cut off weak folk from the earth,
the helpless from the land.
- 15 The leech has daughters twain:
"Give, give!" is their refrain.
- Three things are never satisfied,
four never say "Enough!"—
- 16 Death and the barren womb,
Earth athirst ever for the rain,
Fire never to be satisfied.
- 17 The man who mocks his father
and scorns his aged mother,
ravens shall pick the eyes out of
his corpse,

and vultures shall devour
him.

Three things make me marvel, 18
four things I cannot fathom:
the way a vulture wings the air, 19
the way a snake glides over
stones,

the way a ship sails o'er the sea,
and the way of a man with a
maid.

[[This is the way of an adul- 20
teress:
she gratifies her appetite
and calmly says "No harm!"]]

Three things burden this poor 21
earth,

four things it cannot bear:
a slave who rises to be king, 22
a fool who makes a fortune,
a plain girl who at last gets 23
married,
and a maid who supplants her
mistress.

Four things are small on earth, 24
small but extremely shrewd:
ants are a frail folk, 25

but they store up food in
summer;
marmots are not a mighty race, 26
but they can burrow in the
rocks;

the locusts have no king to lead 27
them,
but they advance in order;
the lizard—you may lift it in 28
your hand,
but it will push into a palace.

Three things have a stately 29
stride,
four things have a stately
tread:

a lion, mightiest of beasts, 30
that never runs away;
a strutting cock, and a he- 31
goat,
and a king at the head of a
host.

- 32 You urge in your conceit some
silly plan?
Ah, hold your tongue!
- 33 Curds come if you churn up
butter,
blood comes if you wring the nose,
and strife comes if you churn
up anger.
- 31 Sayings that Lemuel the
king of Massa learned from his
mother.
- 2 Son of mine, heed what I say,
listen, O son of my prayers,
and obey.
- 3 Waste not your strength on
women,
your love on these destroyers
of a king.
- 4 It is not for kings to be quaffing
wine,
nor for princes to be swilling
liquor;
- 5 lest in their cups they forget
their law
and misjudge a case of misery.
- 6 Give liquor to a perishing soul,
give him wine in his bitter
plight,
- 7 that so he may forget his pov-
erty,
and think no more about his
misery.
- 8 Do justice to a widow,
and let orphans have their
rights;
- 9 decide your cases fairly,
champion the weak and
wretched.
- 10 A rare find is an able wife—
she is worth far more than
rubies!
- 11 Her husband may depend on
her,
and never lose by that;
- 12 she brings him profit and no
loss,
from first to last.
- She looks out wool and flax, 13
and works it up with a will.
- She is like merchant-ships, 14
fetching foodstuffs from afar.
- She rises before dawn, 15
to feed her household,
handing her maids their
rations.
- She buys land prudently; 16
with her earnings she plants
a vineyard.
- She finds that industry is profit- 18
able;
the lamp burns all night in her
house.
- She girds herself to work, 17
and plies her arms with
vigour;
- she sets her hand to the dis- 19
tuff,
her fingers hold the spindle.
- She fears not snow for her house- 21
hold;
for they all wear scarlet wool.
- She has mantles made for her- 22
self,
she is robed in linen and
purple.
- To poor folk she is generous, 20
and lends a hand to the for-
lorn.
- Her husband is a man of note, 23
he sits with the sheikhs in
council.
- She makes linen yarn and sells 24
it;
she supplies girdles to the
traders.
- Strong and secure is her posi- 25
tion;
she can afford to laugh, look-
ing ahead.
- She talks shrewd sense, 26
and offers kindly counsel.
- She keeps an eye upon her 27
household;
she never eats the bread of
idleness.
- Her sons congratulate her, 28
and thus her husband praises
her:

- 9 "Many a woman does nobly,
but you outdo them
all!"
- 20 Charms may wane and beauty
wither,
- keep your praise for a wife
with brains;
give her due credit for her deeds, 31
praise her in public for her
services.

ECCLESIASTES

- 1 Sayings of the Speaker, David's son, king in Jerusalem.
 - 2 Utterly vain, utterly vain,
everything is vain!
 - 3 Man labours at his toil under
the sun;
what does he gain?
 - 4 The generations come and go,
but there the earth is, there
it shall remain.
 - 5 The rising sun goes down, it
hurries round
only to rise again.
 - 6 From south to north the wind
blows round,
the wind turns as it blows,
turning and then returning on
its track.
 - 7 The streams all flow into the
sea,
but the sea they never fill,
though the streams are flow-
ing still.
 - 8 All things are weary,
weary beyond words:
the eye is never satisfied,
the ear has never enough.
 - 9 What has been is what shall
be, what has gone on is what
shall go on, and there is nothing
new under the sun. Men may
say of something, "Ah, this is
new!"—but it existed long ago
before our time. The men of
old are now forgotten, and men
to come shall be forgotten by
the folk who follow them.
 - 12 I the Speaker was king of
13 Israel in Jerusalem. I set my-
self to study and survey
thoughtfully all that goes on
under heaven—a sorry task this
toil set to the sons of men by
 - 14 God! I have seen all that goes
on in this world; it is a vain,
futile affair.
 - 15 You cannot straighten what is
twisted,
- nor can you count up the de-
fects in life.
- Said I to myself, "Now here 16
have I gained far more wisdom
than any before me in Jerusa-
lem, my mind has such experi-
ence of wisdom and knowledge;
I have applied myself to wisdom 17
and knowledge as well as to
mad folly, and I find it futile.
The more you know, the more 18
you suffer:
the more you understand, the
more you ache."
- Said I to myself, "Come, try 2
pleasure and enjoy yourself."
But this too was in vain. Mirth 2
is madness, I reflected, and what
is the good of pleasure? I 3
searched my mind how to pam-
per my body with wine (keep-
ing control of myself wisely all
the time), how to come by folly,
till I could see how best the
sons of men might fare under
heaven during the few days of
their life. I went in for great 4
works, built mansions, planted
vineyards, laid out gardens and 5
parks in which I planted all
kinds of fruit-trees, and made 6
pools to water the trees in my
plantations; I bought slaves, 7
both men and women, and had
slaves born within my house-
hold; I had large herds and
flocks, larger than any before
me in Jerusalem; I amassed 8
silver and gold, right royal
treasures; I secured singers,
both men and women, and
many a mistress, man's delight.
Richer and richer I grew, more 9
than any before me in Jerusa-
lem, nor did my wisdom leave
me. Nothing I coveted did I 10
deny myself; I refused my heart
no joy—for my heart did feel

joy in all this toil; so much I did
 11 get from all my efforts. But
 when I turned to look at all I
 had achieved and at my toil and
 trouble, then it was all vain and
 12 futile. Nothing in this world
 is worth while. For what can
 he do who succeeds the king?
 Nothing but what the king has
 done already.
 13 Then I turned to look into
 wisdom and mad folly. Wis-
 dom is better than folly, I saw,
 as light is better than darkness;
 14 for the wise man has eyes in his
 head, while the fool walks in the
 dark. But I also found that one
 15 fate falls to both. So I said to
 myself, "If the fool's fate is to
 be my fate, what is the use of all
 my wisdom? This too is vain,"
 16 said I to myself. "The wise
 man is no more remembered
 than the fool, for in days to
 come both alike will have been
 long forgotten. Alas, the wise
 17 man dies like the fool!" So I
 hated life; for all that goes on
 under the sun seemed evil to me,
 all of it vain and futile. I hated
 18 all that I had toiled at under the
 sun, knowing I must leave it to
 19 the man who follows me. And
 who knows whether he will be
 a wise man or a fool? Yet he
 will have it all in his own hands,
 all I have won by my toil and
 trouble and skill under the sun.
 20 This too is vain. So I turned
 to despair of all my toil and
 21 trouble under the sun; for a man
 who has toiled skilfully and
 thoughtfully and ably has to
 leave all his gains to one who
 has never worked for them.
 This too is vain, it is a great
 22 evil. For what good does a
 man get himself from all the
 toil and strain of his labour in
 23 this world? All through life
 his task is a sheer pain and vex-

ation, day after day; the very
 night brings no rest to his mind.
 This too is vain. There is 24
 nothing better for a man than
 to eat and drink and enjoy him-
 self as he does his work. And
 this, I find, is what God grants;
 for who can eat, who can enjoy 25
 himself, apart from God? [[To 26
 a man whom God approves he
 grants wisdom, knowledge, and
 happiness, but he sets a sinner
 the task of gathering and amass-
 ing wealth, only to leave it to
 the man whom God approves
 (which is indeed vain and fu-
 tile).]]

Everything has its appointed 3
 hour,
 there is a time for all things
 under heaven:
 a time for birth, a time for 2
 death,
 a time to plant and a time to
 uproot,
 a time to kill, a time to heal, 3
 a time to break down and a
 time to build,
 a time to cry, a time to laugh, 4
 a time to mourn, a time to
 dance,
 a time to scatter and a time to 5
 gather,
 a time to embrace, a time to
 refrain,
 a time to seek, a time to lose, 6
 a time to keep, a time to
 throw away,
 a time to tear, a time to sew, 7
 a time for silence and a time
 for speech,
 a time for love, a time for hate, 8
 a time for war, a time for
 peace.

What does a busy man gain 9
 from his toil? I have watched 10
 the interests that God sets the
 sons of men to labour at; he 11
 assigned each to its proper
 time, but for the mind of man
 he has appointed mystery, that

man may never fathom God's own purpose from beginning to end. For men, I find, there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they are alive; it is indeed God's very gift to man, that he should eat and drink and be happy as he toils. Also, I find, whatever God may do shall stand unchanged; nothing can be added to it, nothing can be taken from it. So God orders things, that men may stand in awe of him.

15 Whatever is, it has already been; whatever is to be, already is; and God is ever bringing back what disappears.

16 Once more I looked into the world, and there I saw wrong within the courts of justice, iniquity within the courts of religion. [[Yes, but (I said to myself) God will deal one day with the just and the unjust; 'tis he who appoints a time for everything, for all that men devise and practise.]] This, I reflected, is God showing what men are, to let them see they are no better than the beasts.

19 For man's fate is a beast's fate, one fate befalls them both; as the one dies so the other dies, the same breath is in them all; man is no better than a beast, for both are vanity, both are bound for the same end; both sprang from the dust, and to the dust they both return. Who can tell if the spirit of man goes upward, while the spirit of a beast goes down into the earth? So I saw the best thing for man was to be happy in his work; that is what he gets out of life, for who can show him what is to happen afterwards?

4 I looked again and saw all the oppression that goes on in the world; there were the op-

pressed in tears, with no one to redress their wrongs—tyrants in power and the oppressed in tears, with no one to redress their wrongs! So I judged the dead already in their graves to be more happy than the living who were still alive; yes, and happier than them both the man unborn, who has never known the misery that goes on in the world.

Also I saw that human toil and skill mean jealousy between man and man. (This too is vain and futile!) He is a fool who folds his hands and lets life go to ruin. Still, one handful of content is better than two hands full of toil and futile effort. I saw another futile thing under the sun—a lone man, kinless, without son or brother, and yet toiling on to make money; he cannot satisfy himself with what he gains, and he never asks for whose sake he is toiling and stinting himself of pleasure. This too is vain, a sorry business.

Two are better than one; they come well off in all they undertake, for if one falls the other man can raise his fellow. But woe betide a lonely man who falls, with none to help him up! Again, if two men lie together they keep warm; but how can any man keep warm alone? Also, two men can stand up to a robber, when a single man would be overpowered. And a threefold cord is not easily broken.

A young man, lowly born and wise, is better than an old and silly king who will no longer take advice; in a rebellion the young man may rise to the throne, although he was born poor within the realm. I have

seen all the living on earth side
with such a youth, who was
destined to reign instead of the
16 old king; no end of people hailed
him as their leader. Yet later
on men lost all interest in him!
'This too is vain and futile.

5 Never enter God's house care-
lessly; draw near him to listen,
and then your service is better
than what fools offer—for all a
fool knows is how to do wrong.

2 Never be rash with your lips,
never let your heart hurry you
into words before God. God is
in heaven, and you are on earth;

3 so let your words be few. For
as many worries mean that a
man will dream,
so many words mean that a
fool is talking.

4 When you vow a vow to God,
pay it without delay (for the
vows of fools displease him).

5 Pay your vow; better not vow
at all than vow and fail to pay.

6 Never allow your lips to lay you
open to punishment; never say
to God, "I vowed that by mis-
take," lest God be angry at your
excuse and undo you. Stand in
7 awe of God [[for many dreams
and words mean many a vain
folly]].

8 When you see the poor being
oppressed or right and justice
tampered with in the State, be
not surprised; it is one official
preying on another. But over
both there is a supreme author-
9 ity; after all, a country prospers
with a king who has control.

10 A lover of money will never
be satisfied with his money, and
a lover of wealth will never
make anything of it (this too is
vain!). The more a man gains,

11 the more there are to spend
it, while the owner can only

12 look on. Sweet is the worker's
sleep, whether he has much to

eat or little; but the satiety of
the rich keeps them from sleep-
ing. A sore evil have I seen in 13
the world, wealth hoarded to
the owner's loss: in some un- 14
lucky venture it is lost, and the
man has nothing to leave to his
son. Naked he came from his 15
mother's womb, and naked he
must return; for all his toil, he
has nothing to take with him.
A sore evil this, that as he came 16
so he must go. What does he
gain by all his futile toil, spend- 17
ing his days in gloominess, pri-
vations, deep anxieties, distress,
and fits of anger?

Here is what I find right and 18
good for man—to eat and drink
and to be happy as he toils at
his task on earth, during the few
days God gives him to live.
Such is his lot; yes, it is God's 19
own gift when a man is made
rich and wealthy and able to en-
joy it all, to partake of what
may be allotted him and to en-
joy himself as he toils. Then 20
he will never brood over the
fewness of his days, for God is
giving him his heart's delight.
There is an evil I have seen 6
under the sun, that presses
heavily on men—God making a 2
man rich, wealthy, and hon-
oured, till he has everything
his heart desires, and yet he is
unable to enjoy it; an outsider
gets the good of it. This is vain,
a sore misfortune. A man may 3
have a hundred children and
live many a long year, but if he
gets no joy of his prosperity and
dies unburied, he is worse off,
I hold, than an untimely birth
that lifeless comes and dark- 4
ling goes without a name; the 5
sun it never saw nor knew, but
it is better off. The man may 6
live a thousand years twice
told, but if he never enjoys him-

- self, then are not both alike
bound for the same end?
- 7 A man toils on to satisfy his
hunger,
but his wants are never met.
- 8 A wise man fares no better than
a fool;
no more does a poor man who
lives uprightly.
- 9 Better a joy at hand
than wants that roam abroad.
- 10 Whatever happens has been
determined long ago, and what
man is has been ordained of old;
he cannot argue with One
- 11 mightier than himself, and lav-
ish talk about it only means
more folly. What is the use of
- 12 talking? Who can tell what is
good for man in life, during the
few days of his empty life that
passes like a shadow? For who
can tell a man what is to happen
in this world when he is gone?
- 7 A good name in life is better
than nard,
but the day of death is better
than the day of birth.
- 2 Better go to the house of mourn-
ing
than to the house of feasting;
for death is the end of all men,
and the living should keep
that in mind.
- 3 Grief is better than gaiety,
for sadness does the soul good.
- 4 The heart of wise men turns to
the house of mourning,
the heart of fools turns to the
house of mirth.
- 5 Better attend to censure from
the wise
than listen to a song from fools;
- 6 for like nettles crackling under
kettles
is the cackle of a fool.
This too is vain:
- 7 for a judge to make a fool of
himself by oppression,
and for life to be ruined by
the taking of bribes.
- The end of a business is better 8
than its beginning,
and patience is better than
pride.
- Never be hasty in your anger; 9
it is only fools who cherish
wrath.
- Never ask why the past was 10
better than the present:
that is a foolish question.
- Wisdom is as good as an inheri- 11
tance,
a real profit for mankind;
for wisdom like wealth is a de- 12
fence,
but knowledge does more
good than money,
it safeguards a man's life.
- Ponder the doings of God: 13
who can straighten what he
twists?
- In prosperous days enjoy your- 14
self, but in evil days ponder this,
that the one is the doing of God
as well as the other—all to keep
man from knowing what is to
happen.
- All manner of things have I 15
seen in my fleeting life, the good
man perishing by his very good-
ness and the evil man flourishing
upon his evil. Be not over- 16
good, be not over-wise; why
expose yourself to trouble?
And be not over-evil either, do 17
not play the fool; why die before
your time? The best way is to 18
take the one line, and yet not
avoid the other [[for he who
stands in awe of God shall avoid
both extremes]] [[Wisdom is 19
better protection for the wise
than a dozen wardens for a
city]], for there is not a single 20
good man upon earth whose
good deeds are without some
sin.
- One thing more. Never 21
listen to all that people say;
you may hear your own slave
cursing you. And many a time, 22

you must confess, you yourself have cursed other people.

- 23 All this I have tested by means of wisdom. I thought to become wise, but wisdom remained out of reach. Reality is beyond my grasp; deep it lies, very deep, and no one can lay hands upon the heart of things.
- 25 I cast about in my mind to know and survey and discover wisdom and the reason of things, finding that wickedness is folly and folly madness; and I discovered something, something more bitter even than death—the woman who entangles men, whose heart is a net, whose clasp is a chain [[A man by God's good favour shall escape her, but she will snare a sinner]].
- 27 Vainly have I sought over and again the truth of things, putting together this and that; but here is what I have found, says the Speaker: one true man in a thousand, but never a true woman! Here is all I have been able to discover: God made the race of men upright, but many a cunning wile have they contrived.

Who is like a wise man?

Who can explain things?

Man's wisdom lights his face up,

it transfigures even a rough countenance.

- 2 Obey the king, for you swore
3 him loyalty before God. Rebel not rashly against him, never thwart him, for he does as he pleases; the king's word is supreme, and none dare ask him
7 what he means. No one knows what a king may do, and none can tell when he will do it. He who obeys the royal command will never come to harm. Still, the wise heart knows there is a
6 time of judgment coming, even

though to-day men are being crushed under the king in misery; for all there is an hour of judgment. No man can hold the winds in check or control the day of death; in war there is no furlough, and wrong is no shield for wrongdoers. All this I saw, as thoughtfully I pondered what goes on within this world whenever men have power over their fellows, power to injure them.

Then I saw bad men being borne to burial, carried to their rest, while the pious had to leave the sanctuary and were forgotten in the city (which also is vanity!). [[Because sentence on a crime is not executed at once, the mind of man is prone to evil practices; but although a sinner may sin repeatedly and thrive, I know it is the reverent who are safe, as they revere God, while the bad man fares ill—he cannot thrive, for lives that lack all reverence for God pass like a shadow.]] Here again is a vanity that goes on in the world: good men fare as though they were wicked, and wicked men fare as though they were good. This, I repeat, is vanity. So I praise pleasure: the best thing for man is to eat and drink and enjoy himself, and to keep this up as he toils right through the life God gives him in this world.

When I gave my mind to the study of wisdom, to study all the busy life of the world, I found that man is unable to grasp the truth of all that God does in this world; he may labour in his efforts to attain it, in a sleepless quest for it by day and night, but he will never find it out; a wise man may think he is coming on the secret,

but even he will never find it
 9 out. For this I realise, this I see clearly, that the just and wise and all their doings are within the power of God. Will he love them? Will he hate them? None can tell; anything
 2 may happen to them. And for all men alike there is one fate, for just and unjust, good and bad, pure and impure, for him who sacrifices and for him who never sacrifices; as with the good man, so with the sinner; the profane man fares like the man whose oath is sacred.
 3 There is no evil like this in the world, that all men have one fate; it makes men seethe with evil aims and mad desires during their life, and then they join
 4 the dead—not one is left. Any one still alive has something to live for (even a live dog is better
 5 than a dead lion); the living know this at least, that they must die. But the dead know nothing, they have nothing for their labour, their very mem-
 6 ory is forgotten, their love has vanished with their hate and jealousy, and they have no share now in anything that goes on
 7 in the world. Come, eat your food with joy and drink your wine with a glad heart, for this
 8 has God's approval. Wear white robes always, and spare
 9 not oil for your head; enjoy life with the woman whom you love, through all the fleeting life which God has given you in this world, for this is what you are meant to get out of your life of
 10 toil under the sun. Throw yourself into any pursuit that may appeal to you, for there is no pursuit, no plan, no knowledge or intelligence within the grave where you are going.
 11 I looked at life again: in this

world the race is not won by the swift, nor battles by the brave, nor bread by the wise, nor wealth by the clever, nor honour by the learned; death and misfortune happen to them all. For no man knows his
 12 hour; like fish caught in the deadly net, like birds trapped in a snare, so men are snared by an evil hour that drops upon them suddenly.

Here is another case of wis- 13 dom which I have seen on earth, and I was struck by it. A little 14 town there was, with few men in it; and a great king attacked it, he invested it, and built great siegeworks round it. However, 15 a poor wise man was found within the town, who saved it by his skill. And not a soul remembered that poor man! Wisdom is better than strength, 16 I reflected; still, a poor man's wisdom wins no honour or deference for him.

Wise words heard in quiet far 17 excel

shouts from a ringleader of revellers.

Wisdom is better than weapons 18 of war: often a single error spoils good strategy.

A poisonous fly makes perfume 19 putrid:

a grain of folly mars wisdom and honour.

A wise man's sense will keep 20 him right:

a fool's mind leads him wrong.

Even on a walk the fool shows 3 lack of sense, for he calls everyone a fool.

If a ruler's wrath flares up 4 against you,

do not resign your post;

defer to him,

and you will pacify his rage.

- 5 Here is an evil I have seen on
 earth,
 a ruler blundering without
 meaning it:
 6 fools often get high posts from
 him,
 while the noble have a lowly
 seat;
 7 so have I seen slaves on horse-
 back,
 and princes plodding afoot
 like slaves.
- 8 Hewho digs a pit may fall into it,
 he who breaks a wall down
 may be bitten by a serpent.
 9 He who quarries stones may be
 hurt by them,
 he who cuts logs may get a
 wound.
- 10 If the axe is blunt and its edge
 unwhetted,
 more strength must be put
 into the blow;
 successful skill comes from
 shrewd sense.
- 11 If a serpent bites before it is
 charmed,
 then the charmer's skill is
 useless.
- 12 The words of wise men win
 them favour,
 but a fool's lips are his ruin:
- 13 his words are folly from the
 start,
 and they end in mad mischief;
 14a fool prates on and on:
- 15 even the stupid are weary of
 his fussiness.
- 16 Man knows not what is to be:
 who can tell him what hap-
 pens when he is gone?
- 17 Woe betide you, O land, when
 your king is a mere boy,
 and your princes revel in the
 morning!
- 18 Well for you when your king is
 nobly born,
 and princes revel at right
 hours,
 stalwart men, not sots!
- Sloth make the rafters sink: 18
 when hands are slack, the
 roof will leak.
- Men feast for merrymaking, 19
 and drink for revelry—
 and money does it all!
- Curse not the king, not even on 20
 your couch,
 curse not the rich, even in
 your bedchamber;
 for a bird of the air may carry
 the sound,
 and wings may betray the
 secret.
- Trust your goods far and wide at 11
 sea,
 till you get good returns after
 a while.
- Take shares in several ventures; 2
 you never know what will go
 wrong in this world.
- When clouds are full of rain, 3
 they drench the earth;
 as the stick falls, to south or
 north,
 where the stick falls it lies.
- He whose eye is on the wind will 4
 never sow;
 he who studies clouds will
 never reap.
- As you know not how the wind 5
 blows,
 nor how a babe in the womb
 grows,
 so you cannot know how God
 works,
 God who is in everything.
- Sow your seed in the morning of 6
 life,
 and stay not your hand till
 evening;
 you never know if this or that
 shall prosper,
 or whether both shall have
 success.
- Sweet is the light of life, and 7
 pleasant is it for the eyes to
 see the sun. If a man live 8
 many years, let him have joy
 throughout them all; let him
 remember that the dark days

- will be many. All that comes
after death is emptiness.
- 9 So rejoice in your youth, young
man,
be blithe in the flower of your
age;
follow your heart's desire
and all that attracts you
[[but be sure that for all this
God will bring you to ac-
count]];]
- 10 banish all worries from your
mind,
and keep your body free from
pain
(for youth and manhood will
not last)
- 12 [[but remember your Creator in
the flower of your age]],
ere evil days come on,
and years approach when you
shall say,
"I have no joy in them";
- 2 ere the sun grows dark,
and the light goes from moon
and stars,
and the clouds gather after rain;
- 3 when the guards tremble in the
house of Life,
when its upholders bow,
when the maids that grind are
few and fail,
and ladies at the lattice lose
their lustre,
- 4 when the doors to the street are
shut,
and the sound of the mill runs
low,
when the twitter of birds is faint,
and dull the daughters of song,
- 5 when old age fears a height,
and even a walk has its terrors,
when his hair is almond white,
and he drags his limbs along,
and the spirit flags and fades.
- So man goes to his long, long
home,
and mourners pass along the
street,
on the day when the silver cord 6
is snapped,
and the golden lamp drops
broken,
when the pitcher breaks at the
fountain,
the wheel breaks at the cis-
tern,
when the dust returns to earth 7
once more,
and the spirit to God who
gave it.
- Utterly vain—it is the 8
Speaker's verdict—everything
is vain!
- The more wise the Speaker 9
became, the more he taught the
people knowledge; many a
maxim he pondered and exam-
ined and arranged. The Speak- 10
er's aim was to find pleasing
words, even as he put down
plainly what was true. A wise 11
man's words are like goads, and
his collected sayings are like
nails driven home; they put the
mind of one man into many a
life. My son, avoid anything 12
beyond the scriptures of wis-
dom; there is no end to the buy-
ing of books, and to study books
closely is a weariness to the
flesh.
- To sum it all up in conclu- 13
sion. Stand in awe of God, obey
his orders: that is everything
for every man. For in judging 14
all life's secrets God will have
every single thing before him, to
decide whether it is good or
evil.

THE SONG OF SOLOMON

- 1 The song of all songs, which is Solomon's.
 2 Oh for a kiss from your lips!
 your caresses are dearer than wine,
 3 rare is the fragrance of your perfumes,
 the sound of your name is wafted like scent.
 The girls are all in love with you;
 4 but draw me to you—let us haste—
 bring me to your chamber, O my king,
 and there let us thrill with delight;
 caresses from you will be dearer than wine—
 no wonder girls adore you!
- 5 I am dark, but I am a beauty,
 maidens of Jerusalem,
 dark as tents of the Black men,
 beautiful as curtains of a Solomon.
 6 Scorn me not for being dark,
 for the sun has tanned me;
 my brothers in anger set me to look after the vineyard,
 but I did not look after the vineyard of my charms.
- 7 Tell me, love of my soul,
 where do you rest your flock at noon,
 for why should I go roaming from flock to flock of your mates?
 8 "Fairest of women, if you know not,
 follow the sheep-tracks,
 and pasture your kids by the tents of the herdsmen.
- 9 I liken you, my dear,
 to a filly in the Pharaoh's chariot—
 your cheeks so fair with braided plaits,
 your neck with strings of jewels;
 we will have golden beads strung round you,
 studded with silver."
- When my king is on his diwan,
 my charms breathe out their fragrance;
 my darling is my bunch of myrrh
 that lies between my breasts,
 my darling is my bunch of henna-blossom
 from the gardens of Eng'edi.
- "How fair you are, my dear,
 how fair with dove-like eyes!"
 How fair you are, my darling,
 Oh how sweet!
 Our bed of love is the green sward,
 our roof-beams are yon cedar-boughs,
 our rafters are the firs.
 I am only a blossom of the plain,
 a mere lily of the dale.
 "Like a lily among briars,
 so is my dear among women!"
 And like an apple-tree in the forest,
 so is my darling among men;
 under his shadow I love to lie,
 tasting his sweet fruit.
- He has brought me to his chamber of joy,
 hung over with love.
 Sustain me with raisins,
 revive me with apples,
 for I swoon with love.
 Let his left hand caress my head,
 let his right hand embrace me.
 O maidens of Jerusalem,
 I charge you,
 by the roe-deer and the hinds,

- never rouse lovers, never stir
them,
till they are satisfied.
- 8 Listen, it is my darling,
there he is, coming to me,
leaping across the mountains,
bounding over the hills!
- 9 There he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the window,
glancing through the lattice!
- 10 And he calls to me, my darling,
"Come, dear, come, my
beauty!
- 11 For winter is over,
the rains are by,
12 the country's a-flower,
'tis the season for pruning,
the ringdove's note is heard,
13 the figs are ripening red,
the vines are all blossom and
fragrance—
come, dear, come away, my
beauty!
- 14 O my dove, from the clefts of
your rock,
from your nook in the cliff,
O show me your form,
let me hear your voice,
your voice so sweet,
your form so fair!"
- 15 (Catch us the foxes,
the little foxes,
that gnaw at our vines,
when the vines are in bloom.)
- 16 My darling is mine, and I am
his,
he feeds among my lilies.
- 17 Till the cool of the dawn,
till the shadows depart,
O turn to me, darling,
and play like a roe or a hart
on my perfumed slopes!
- 3 Night after night in bed
I dreamed I sought my be-
loved,
and sought him in vain.
- "I will rise and search the 2
town," said I,
"through street and square,
in quest of my beloved";
but in vain.
The watchmen met me on their 3
rounds;
I said, "Have you seen my
beloved?"
Scarce had I left them 4
when I found my beloved;
I held him fast in my embrace
and brought him to my
mother's house.
- What is this, coming up from 6
the country,
like columns of smoke,
perfumed with myrrh and frank-
incense,
with every scent to be
bought?
'Tis the palanquin of Solomon, 7
with sixty of a guard,
sixty of Israel's braves,
armed each with a sword, 8
all expert in fight,
with sword on thigh
for alarms by night.
- My king has made him a sedan 9
of wood from Lebânon,
silver the feet of it, 10
golden the back of it,
purple the seat of it,
inlaid with ebony.
Maidens of Sion, 11
come, look at my king,
with a crown from his mother,
the day of his marriage,
the day of his rapture.
- "Ah, you are fair, my dear, you 4
are fair,
with dove-like eyes
behind your veil!
Dark streams your hair
like goats a-down the slopes
of Gilead;
your teeth like shorn ewes 2
fresh from the dipping,

- paired together in rows,
not one a-wanting;
1 your lips like a scarlet thread,
your mouth so delicious;
your cheeks like slices of pome-
granate
behind your veil;
1 your neck like David's tower
adorned with trophies,
hung round with a thousand
targes,
all armour of heroes;
5 your breasts like a pair of fawns,
twins of a roe-deer!
6 Yes, till the cool of the dawn,
till the shadows depart,
I will hie me to your scented
slopes,
your fragrant charms.
7 You are all fair, my dear,
you are spotless.
- 8 Come from Lebánon, bride of
mine,
come with me from Lebánon,
from the peak of Amána,
the lair of the lions,
from the peaks of Shenir and
Hermon,
the hill-haunt of panthers.
- 9 My bride, my own,
you have ravished my heart,
you have ravished my heart
with a glance from your eye,
with a turn of your neck!
- 10 How sweet your caresses,
my bride, my own,
far sweeter than wine.
- 11 Your lips drop honey, my bride,
your whispers are honey and
milk;
the scent of your robes is as
scent of Lebánon,
no spice so sweet as your
fragrance.
- 12 My own, my bride, a garden en-
closed,
a spring of water sealed se-
cure!

- Your charms are a pomegranate 13
paradise—
with henna and roses.
and spikenard and saffron, 14
with cassia and cinnamon,
all sorts of frankincense,
with myrrh and with eaglewood,
all the best spices!
You are the fountain of my 15
garden,
a well of fresh water,
like streams from Lebánon.
O north wind, waken, 16
O south wind, blow,
and breathe upon my garden
to waft out the perfume!"
- Let my darling come into his
garden,
and taste the choice fruits
that are his!
- "My own, my bride, I come into 5
my garden,
to gather me balsam and
myrrh,
to eat my honey in the comb,
to drink my wine and
milk."
(Eat away, dear ones,
drink your fill of love!)
- I slept, but my heart lay 2
waking;
I dreamed—ah! there is my
darling knocking!
- "Open to me, my own," he calls,
"my dear, my dove, my
paragon!
- My head is drenched with dew,
my hair with drops of the
night."
- But I have doffed my robe; 3
why should I don it?
My feet are bathed;
why should I soil them?
Then my darling put his hand 4
in,
his right hand at the door,
and my heart yearned for him;
how my soul fainted when I
heard him!

- 5 So I rose to let my darling in,
my hands all moist with
myrrh,
my fingers wet with liquid
myrrh,
that dripped on the catch of
the bolt.
- 6 I opened to my darling,
but my darling, he had gone;
I sought him, but I could not
find him,
I called, he never answered.
- 7 The watchmen met me on their
rounds,
struck me and wounded me;
they robbed me of my mantle,
these warders of the walls.
- 8 O maidens of Jerusalem, I
charge you,
if you find my darling,
tell my darling this,
that I am lovesick.
- 9 "And what is your darling more
than another,
O fairest of women?
What is your darling above all
others,
that you charge us thus?"
- 10 Fresh and ruddy is my darling,
the pick of ten thousand;
- 11 his head is a crown of gold,
his curls black as the raven,
- 12 His eyes like doves upon the
water,
bathed in milk, limpid and
swimming,
- 13 his cheeks are beds of balsam-
flower,
banks of perfume,
his lips are lilies red,
breathing liquid myrrh,
- 14 his fingers are golden tapers
tipped with topaz pink,
his body is wrought of ivory
blue-veined with sapphire,
- 15 his limbs are marble columns
resting on sockets of gold,
he towers to the eye like Lebā-
non,
as lordly as a cedar,
- his kisses are utterly sweet— 16
he is all a delight!
And that is my darling, my dear,
O maidens of Jerusalem!
- "And where has your darling 6
gone,
O fairest of women,
where has your darling wan-
dered,
that we may look for him
too?"
- My darling goes to his garden, 2
to flower-beds of balsam,
to feed within his garden, 1
and to gather lilies.
- For I am my darling's, my dar- 3
ling is mine,
he feeds among my lilies.
- You are fair as a crocus, my 4
dear,
lovely as a lily of the valley;
you overawe me like an army
with banners—
- ah, turn aside those eyes of 5
yours
that daunt me!
- Dark streams your hair like
goats
a-down the slopes of Gilead;
your teeth like shorn ewes 6
fresh from the dipping,
paired together in rows,
not one a-wanting;
- your cheeks like slices of pome- 7
granate
behind your veil.
- Sixty queens had Solomon, 8
eighty concubines,
maidens without number;
but one alone is my dove, my 9
spotless one,
her mother's own darling.
- Women eye and honour her,
queens, concubines, sing in
praise of her:
- "Who is this, glowing like the 10
dawn,
fair as the moon,

- clear as the sun,
overawing like an army with
banners?"
- 1 Down I went to the walnut-
bower,
to see the green plants of the
dale,
to see if the vines were a-bud-
ding,
and the pomegranates in
flower.
- 2
.
- 3 "Maid of Shulem, turn, ah turn,
turn, ah turn, that we may
see you,"
And what would you see in the
maid of Shulem?
"We would see her in the
sword-dance."
- 7 How neatly you trip it,
O princess mine,
your thighs are swaying like
links of a chain
that a master-hand has
moulded;
- 2 your waist is round as a goblet
(ever be it filled!);
your body a bundle of wheat
encircled by lilies;
- 3 your breasts like a pair of fawns,
twins of a roe-deer;
- 4 your neck like an ivory tower,
your head on it lofty as Kar-
mel;
- your eyes like the pools at
Heshbon,
by the gate of that populous
town;
- your nose like the tower at
Lebânon
that faces Damascus;
- 5 your hair as glossy as purple—
its tresses hold captive your
lord;
- 6 "How fair, O my love!" he cries,
"how delicious for love's
delight!
- You stand there straight as a 7
palm,
with breasts like clusters of
fruit;
methinks I will climb that palm, 8
taking hold of the boughs!
O may your breasts be clusters
of fruit,
and your breath sweet as an
apple!
May your kisses be exquisite 9
wine
that slips so smoothly down,
gliding over the lips and the
teeth!"
- I am my darling's and he— 10
he is longing for me.
Come away to the fields, O my 11
darling,
let us sleep among blossoms
of henna,
and start at dawn for the vine- 12
yards,
to see if the vines are a-bud-
ding,
if their blossoms are open,
if pomegranates bloom;
and there I will give you caresses
of love,
love's apples yielding their 13
scent,
and the fruitage of all my
charms—
choice fruit, old and new,
I have kept them, my darling,
for you.
Ah, were you only my brother, 8
nursed at the breasts of my
mother,
I would kiss you wherever I met
you,
with none to despise me;
to my mother's house would I 2
bring you,
to the chamber of her who
bore me,
spiced wine would I give you to
drink,
a draught of my pomegranate
wine.

5 (Who is this, coming up from the
country,
leaning on her darling?)
* * *

I woke you there, under the
apple-tree,
just where you were swad-
dled,
a babe, just there, by your
mother.

6 Wear me as a seal close to your
heart,
wear me like a ring upon your
hand;
for love is strong as death itself,
and passion masters like the
grave,
its flashes burn like flame,
true lightning-flashes.

7 No floods can ever quench this
love,
no rivers drown it.
If a man offered all he has for
love,
he would be laughed aside.

8 "We have a young sister,
and she has no breasts yet;
but what shall we do with our
sister,
when the wooers come?"

If she holds out like a wall, 9
we will adorn her with silver
for dowry;
if she yields to lovers like a
door,
we will plank her up."

Now I was a wall, 10
with breasts like towers;
when my darling looked at
me,
I won his heart.

"Solomon had once a vineyard 11
at Baal-Hermon,
and he leased it out to keep-
ers,
for a thousand silver pieces,
for its fruit.

I keep my vineyard to my- 12
self:
you are welcome to your
silver, Solomon,
welcome to your fruit, you
keepers."

My comrades hear your voice, 13
girl in the garden haunt:
ah, let me hear it too!—
"Hasten, O my darling, 14
play like a roe or a hart
upon my scented slopes."

ISAIAH

- 1 The revelations about Judah and Jerusalem which were made to Isaiah the son of Amoz during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.
- 2 "Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth"—
it is the Eternal speaking—
"I have reared, have brought up sons,
and they have rebelled against me;
- 3 a bullock knows its owner,
an ass its master's manger,
but Israel does not care,
my people never heeds me."
- 4 Ah sinful nation,
folk whose guilt is heavy,
ah race of wrongdoers,
sons degenerate—
they have abandoned the Eternal,
and spurned the Majesty of Israel!
- 5 Why will you earn fresh strokes,
for holding on in your revolt?
Your whole head is sick,
your whole heart is diseased;
- 6 from the sole of the foot to the head
no part is sound;
nothing but bruises and gashes,
and raw, bleeding wounds,
unsqueezed, unbandaged,
unsoftened with oil.
- 7 Your land lies desolate,
your towns are burned,
and foreigners ravage your soil
under your very eyes:
- 8 Maiden Sion is left all alone
like a booth inside a vineyard,
a shed in a cucumber field,
a city beleaguered.
- 9 Had not the Lord of hosts
left us some to survive,
we would have fared like Sodom,
no better than Gomorrah.
- Listen to the Eternal's word, 10
you 'Sodom' of authorities!
Listen to our God's orders,
you 'Gomorrah' of citizens!
"What care I for all your lavish 11
sacrifices?"
the Eternal asks;
"I am sick of slaughtered rams,
of fat from fatted beasts:
the blood of bullocks and of
goats
is no delight to me.
Who asked that from you, 12
when you gather in my
presence?
Crowd my courts no more,
bring offerings no more; 13
the smoke of sacrifice is vain,
I loathe it;
your gatherings at the new 14
moon and on sabbath,
I cannot abide them;
your fasts and festivals,
my soul abhors them,
they are a weariness to me,
I am tired of them.
You may stretch out your 15
hands,
but I will never look at you,
and though you offer many a
prayer,
I will not listen.
Your hands are full of blood- 16
shed;
wash yourselves clean,
banish your evil doings
from my sight,
cease to do wrong,
learn to do right, 17
make justice all your aim,
and put a check on violence,
let orphans have their rights,
uphold the widow's cause.
Come, let me put it thus, 18
the Eternal argues:

- scarlet your sins may be,
but they can become white as
snow,
they may be red as crimson,
and yet turn white as wool.
- 19 If only you are willing to obey,
you shall feed on the best of
the land;
- 20 but if you decline and defy me,
then husks shall be your
food—
so the Eternal himself de-
crees.”
- 21 How unfaithful she has turned,
the city once so true and
trusty!
Sion once so full of justice,
once the seat of right,
and now a haunt of mur-
derers!
- 22 Your silver, it has turned to
dross,
your wine is spoiled with
water;
- 23 your rulers are unruly men,
hand in hand with thieves,
every one fond of his bribe,
keen upon fees,
but careless of the orphan's
rights,
and of the widow's cause.
- 24 This therefore is the sentence of
the Lord,
the Lord of hosts, Hero of
Israel:
“Ha! I will have the comfort
of vengeance on my foes,
on folk who dare resist me!
- 25 I will turn my hand against
you,
smelt your dross out in a
furnace,
and clear out all your alloy;
- 26 I will give you governors as at
first,
and councilors as at the start,
and then a ‘citadel of justice’
shall you be,
a true and trusty City.
- Justice will be the saving of 27
Sion,
an honest life will save;
but rebels and sinners shall be 28
crushed together,
those who abandon the Eter-
nal shall be doomed.
- The sacred trees you love shall 29
disappoint you,
you will blush for groves so
dear now to your rites;
for you shall wither like a tree, 30
like a garden without water.
Strong men shall become like 31
tow,
their idols like a spark,
and they shall burn together
in a blaze that none can
quench.”
- The word of Isaiah the son of 2
Amoz—his vision of Judah, of
Jerusalem.
In after days it shall be 2
that the Eternal's hill shall rise,
towering over every hill,
and higher than the heights.
To it shall all the nations
stream,
and many a folk exclaim, 3
“Come, let us go to the Eternal's
hill,
to the house of Jacob's God,
that he may instruct us in his
ways,
to walk upon his paths.”
For instruction comes from
Sion,
and from Jerusalem the Eter-
nal's word.
He will decide the disputes of the 4
nations,
and settle many a people's case,
till swords are beaten into
ploughshares,
spears into pruning hooks;
no nation draws the sword
against another,
no longer shall men learn to
fight.
O household of Jacob, come, 5

- let us live by the light of the
Eternal!
- * * *
- 10 Get into the caves of the rocks,
hide in the holes of the
ground,
away from the terror of the
Eternal,
from his dread majesty.
- 6 For he has abandoned his
people,
the household of Jacob:
their land so full of traders,
of bargains with the foreigner,
- 7 their land so full of silver and
gold,
no end to their stores,
their land so full of horses,
no end to their war-chariots,
- 8 their land so full of idols,
no end to their images—
they worship what their own
hands make,
things their own fingers
fashion.
- 9 But human pride shall be laid
low,
man's haughtiness shall be
humbled:
- 11 the Eternal shall alone be ex-
alted,
when he rises to overawe the
earth.
- 10 Get into caves of the rocks,
hide in holes of the ground,
away from the terror of the
Eternal,
from his deadly majesty.
- 12 For the Lord of hosts has a day
of doom
on all that is proud and
haughty,
on all that is lofty and soar-
ing,
- 13 on all cedars of Lebânôn,
on all oaks of Bashan,
- 14 on all lofty mountains,
on all towering hills,
- 15 on every high tower,
on every rampart of a fort,
- on all the deep-sea ships, 16
on every gallant craft;
then human pride shall be laid 17
low,
man's haughtiness shall be
humbled,
the Eternal shall alone be
exalted,
but idols one and all shall 18
vanish.
- Get into caves of the rocks, 19
hide in holes of the ground,
away from the terror of the
Eternal,
from his dread majesty,
when he rises to overawe the
earth.
- Then man shall fling 20
to rats and bats
his silver and his golden idols,
that he made for worship,
and get into caves of the rocks, 21
into crevices of cliffs,
to hide from the terror of the
Eternal,
from his dread majesty,
when he rises to overawe the
earth.
- [[Put no more trust in man, with 22
his mere breath of life:
of what account is he?]]
* * *
- Here is the Lord, 3
the Lord of hosts,
removing every prop and stay
from Judah and Jerusalem,
soldier and warrior, 2
governor and prophet,
seer, sheikh, and official, 3
authorities and councillors,
expert magicians and en-
chanters.
- "I will make mere lads their 4
leaders,
and leave them to be swayed
by whims;
tyranny between man and man, 5
between very neighbours,
insolence from young to old,
from low to high;

6 men shall seize a clansman,
crying,

'Your house has a robe of
office;

come, be our chieftain, then,
'master this chaos!'

7 But he will make protest,
'No, I can be no good to you;
my own house has no food,
no robe of office;

you shall not put me up to be
a headman of the people.'

8 No, ruined is Jerusalem
and Judah is to fall;
they challenge the Eternal with
their words and deeds,
defying his glorious eyes;

9 their insolence condemns them,
they flaunt their sin like
Sodom.

Woe, woe to them, for they have
wrought
their own undoing!

10 Well for the just man, he fares
well,
he reaps the good of all that
he has done!

11 Woe to the villain, he fares ill,
undone by all that he has
done!

12 My people's ruler is a wilful
child,
they are controlled by women;
your leaders are misleading you,
my people,
they are effacing the true path
for you."

13 Now the Eternal holds assizes,
'to arraign his people the
Eternal rises,

14 summoning before him to the
bar
the sheikhs and rulers of his
people:

"So you have stripped my vine-
yard?

You hoard what you have
plundered from the poor?

15 What mean you by crushing my
people,

and grinding the face of the
poor?"

So the Lord asks, the Lord of
hosts.

The Eternal also said: 16

Since they are so haughty,
the daughters of Sion,
holding their heads high as they
walk,

and ogling with their eyes,
walking with their mincing
steps,

their anklets jingling,
the Lord will strike their heads 17
with scabs,

the Eternal will strip them bare.' 18

[[On that day the Lord will
deprive them of their finery, of 19

anklets, tiaras, necklaces, ear- 20

rings, bracelets, and veils, head- 21

bands, armlets, and sashes, 22

scent-bottles, charms, signet- 23

rings, and nose-rings, robes of 24

state, mantles, shawls, and 25

purses, gauze, linen turbans, 26

and wrappers.]]
For scent they shall have 27

stench, ropes for girdles,
baldness in place of curls,

sackcloth instead of silk,
the brand of slavery instead
of beauty.

[[The sword shall cut your liege- 28

men down,
your heroes in the fray;

the city gates shall wail, all woe- 29

begone,
the city sit forlorn.]]

Seven women on that day 4

shall seize a single man,
crying, "We will earn our living,
we will clothe ourselves,
but only let us bear your name,
to save us from disgrace!"

* * *
Then fair and fine shall the 5
green growth be,
and a proud crown shall the
field-crops be,

- for the Israelites who are spared;
 3 the survivors in Sion,
 and those left in Jerusalem,
 all who are entered in the book
 of Life,
 they shall be held sacred,
 4 when the Lord has washed away
 the filth from Sion,
 and rinsed Jerusalem
 from bloodstains,
 by a blast of doom,
 a devastating blast.
 5 Then shading all mount Sion
 the Eternal himself will form
 a cloud during the daytime,
 and spread o'er all the gather-
 ings there
 a canopy of brilliant light,
 a fire within the night,
 6 to shade them from the scorch-
 ing heat,
 and safety shelter them from
 storm and sleet.
 * * *
 5 Let me sing of my Friend,
 sing a love-song of his vine-
 yard:
 My Friend, he had a vineyard,
 on a fruitful slope:
 2 he dug it, cleared the stones
 away,
 heplanted the pick of the vines,
 in it he built a watch-tower,
 and had a winepress hewn;
 then he looked for good grapes,
 and it bore him—wild grapes!
 3 "Now, dwellers in Jerusalem,
 now, men of Judah,
 pray judge between me
 and my vineyard.
 4 What more could have been
 done for it?
 What have I left undone?
 And when I looked for good
 grapes,
 why did it bear wild grapes?
 5 Let me tell you now
 what I will do to this my
 vineyard—

tear it down till it is ruined,
 break its wall down till it lies
 trampled.
 I'll make an end of it; 6
 unpruned, unweeded,
 it shall be overgrown with
 thorns and thistles,
 and I will bid the clouds drop
 no rain on it."
 The Eternal's vineyard is the 7
 house of Israel,
 the men of Judah are his dear
 plantation:
 he looked for justice—and lo
 bloodshed!
 for right—and lo shrieks from
 the wronged!
 * * *
 Woe to the men who add house 8
 to house,
 who join one field to an-
 other,
 till there is room for none but
 them
 in all the land!
 The Lord of hosts has sworn 9
 to me,
 "Many a mansion is to lie for-
 lorn,
 splendid and spacious and—
 empty!
 For ten acres of vineyard shall 10
 yield but eight gallons,
 and the harvest shall only be
 a tenth of what is sown."
 Woe to those who get up 11
 early
 for a drinking bout,
 who sit far into the night,
 heated by their wine,
 revellers with lyre and lute, 12
 with tambourine and flute!
 They heed not what the Eternal
 has in hand,
 they never see what he is
 doing.
 So shall my people suddenly 13
 pass into exile,
 their leaders famishing with
 hunger,

- the masses parched with
thirst.
- 14 So the underworld gapes greed-
ily,
opening its jaws ever so wide,
and down go Zion's pomp and
throng,
down go all her madding
crowd.
- 17 Lambs graze in the deserted
scenes,
kids feed among the ruins
- 15 [[and man is abased,
mortals are brought low,
the haughty eyes are down-
cast,
- 16 but the Lord of hosts is exalted
by his judgment,
God's sentence shows His
Majesty is living]].
- 18 Woe to those who draw guilt on
themselves
by stout ungodliness, as with
a rope,
and drag the penalty of sin
upon them,
harnessing themselves to it!—
- 19 who sneer, "Pray let us see what
he will do!
Let him make haste!
We'd like to know what Israel's
Majesty
can have in mind!"
- 20 Woe to those who call good
evil,
and call evil good,
who make out darkness to be
light,
light to be darkness,
who make out bitter to be
sweet,
sweet to be bitter!
- 21 Woe to those who think them-
selves so wise,
and fancy themselves shrewd!
- 22 Woe to those who are brave—
at drinking!
mighty at—mixing a bowl!
- who let off guilty men for a 23
bribe,
and deprive the innocent of
his rights!
- As a tongue of fire licks up the 24
stubble,
as hay is shrivelled in the
flames,
their root shall rot,
their blossoms moulder,
for scorning orders from the
Lord of hosts,
for spurning what Israel's
Majesty decreed.
- * * *
- In the year that king Uzziah 6
died, I saw the Lord seated on a
high and lofty throne; his trail-
ing robes spread over the temple-
floor, and seraphs hovered round 2
him, each with six wings—two
covering the face, two covering
the body, and two to fly with.
They kept calling to one 3
another,
"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of
hosts,
his majestic splendour fills the
whole earth!"
- At the sound of the chant, the 4
foundations of the threshold
shook, and the temple began to
fill with smoke. Then I said, 5
"Alas! I am undone! man of
unclean lips that I am, living
among a people of unclean lips!
I am undone! for my eyes have
seen the King, the Lord of
hosts." But one of the seraphs 6
flew towards me with a live coal
in his hand, which he had lifted
with tongs from the altar; he 7
touched my mouth with it,
saying,
"Now that this has touched
your lips,
your guilt is gone, your sin for-
given."
- Then I heard the voice of the 8
Lord saying,
"Whom shall I send?

Who will go for us?"

I answered, "Here am I; send
9 me." Then he said, "Go and
tell this people:

'Listen and listen—but never
understand!

Look and look—but never see!"

10 Make the mind of this people
dull,

make their ears heavy and
close up their eyes,

lest their eyes see, lest their ears
hear,

lest their minds understand,
and their health be re-
stored."

11 "Lord," I asked, "for how
long?"

He answered,

"Till they are ruined,
till their towns are empty,
and their houses uninhabited,
and the land left desolate,

12 till the Eternal banishes the
folk afar,

and wide tracts of the land lie
bare

13 even if a tenth of them be
spared,

they too must be burned up,
like stumps of oak and terebinth
that have been felled

[[these stumps are the sacred
race]]."

7 During the reign of Ahaz the
son of Jotham, son of Uzziah,
king of Judah, Rezin the king of
Aram and Pekah the son of
Remaliah, king of Israel,
marched up to attack Jerusalem
(though they could not deliver
their attack).

2 When news came
to the royal court that the Ara-
means had occupied Ephraim,
the heart of Ahaz and of his
people quivered like trees quiv-
ering before the wind in the

3 jungle. But the Eternal said
to Isaiah, "Go out, with your
son Shear-yashub, to meet Ahaz

at the top of the conduit from
the upper reservoir, on the
road to Fuller's Field. Tell him 4
to see and be calm, never quail,
never be afraid of these two
fag-ends of flickering torches, of
Rezin and the son of Remaliah
with their blazing fury. Aram 5
and Ephraim and the son of
Remaliah have planned mis-
chief against you, thinking to
invade Judah and reduce it to
straits, to break in and seize it 6
and set Tabeal's son upon the
throne; but this is what the 7
Lord the Eternal says:

"Their plan shall fail,
this shall not be;

Damascus is but the capital of 8
Aram,

and only in Damascus Rezin
rules

[[within sixty-five years Eph-
raim shall be so shattered that
it ceases to be a national]].

Samaria is but the capital of 9
Ephraim,

and only in Samaria rules
Remaliah's son.

If your faith does not hold,
you will never hold out."

I also said to Ahaz, "Ask the 10
Eternal your God for an omen—
11 from the deep underworld or
from high heaven." "No," 12

said Ahaz, "I will not put the
Eternal to any test." Then I 13

said, "Listen, you royalties, I
am tired of you! And will you
insist on tiring my God as well
as a man like myself? An

omen you shall have, and that
from the Eternal himself. There 14

is a young woman with child,
who shall bear a son and call
his name 'Immanuel' (God is
with us); [he shall enjoy curds 15
and honey, whenever he knows
good food from bad]] for before 16

ever the child knows good food
from bad, the land whose two

kings are your terror shall be desolate."

* * *

17 The Eternal will bring upon you,
on your people and your family,

a time such as never has been
since Ephraim broke with Judah.

18 For then it shall be
that the Eternal whistles for fly and bee,

19 for foes that swarm and settle
all

in the steep ravines and crevices of cliffs,

on every bush and pasture-land.

20 Then, with a razor hired [[the Assyrian king]]

from west of the Euphrates,
will the Eternal shave your country bare,

shaving off every hair,
lopping the very beard away.

21 Then a man can only keep
a single cow and a couple of sheep,

22 though the ample milk
will supply him with curds:
for any survivors in the land
shall only fare on curds and honey.

23 Then it shall be that every spot,
once rich with a thousand vines,

worth a thousand silver pieces,
shall be all thorns and thistles;

24 and men will go hunting with
arrow and bow,
for all the country is thorns
and thistles;

25 and if you went to slopes once
hoed,
you would see only thorns and
thistles,
a cattle-run and a sheep-walk.

* * *

8 The Eternal said to me,
"Take a large board and write

on it plainly, 'Spoilsoonprey-quick,' and have it attested by 2
two reliable witnesses, by Uriah
the priest and Zechariah the
son of Jeberechiah." Then I 3

the prophet went to my wife,
and, when she had conceived
and borne a son, the Eternal
said to me, "Name him 'Spoil-
soonpreyquick.' For before the 4
boy knows how to say, 'my
father' and 'my mother,' the
wealth of Damascus and the
spoils of Samaria shall be car-
ried off to the king of Assyria."

Once again the Eternal said to 5
me:

Since this people has rejected 6
the soft flow from Shiloah,
and since they are dejected
over Rezin and Remaliah's
son,

therefore the Lord lets loose on 7
them

the strong, full surge of the
Euphrates

[[the king of Assyria and all
his array]],

overflowing all its channels,
brimming over all its banks,
swirling onwards, flooding Ju- 8
dah,

flooding it up to the neck.

But his wings outstretched
shall cover the country from
side to side;

for "God is with us."

Rage away, you nations— 9
only to be shattered!

(listen to this, all lands afar!)

Arm for the fray,
and you shall be shattered!

Arm for the fray,
and you shall be shattered!

Form your plot, 10
and it shall fail;

lay your plan,
it shall not prevail:

for "God is with us."

Here is what the Eternal said 11
to me, with overwhelming force,

- as he warned me not to take the
line of this people:
- 12 "Do not call out 'Danger!'
when this people calls out
Danger!"
Have no fear of what they fear,
never dread it.
- 13 The danger lies with the Lord of
hosts;
'tis he whom you should fear,
'tis he whom you should
dread!
- 14 Over him, like a stone in the
road,
both houses of Israel shall trip
and tumble;
to the Jerusalemites he is a
trap and snare—
- 15 many shall trip and fall with a
crash,
many shall be caught and
captured."
- 16 I will seal up my message, and
commit my counsel to the safe
- 17 keeping of my pupils; then I will
wait on for the Eternal who now
hides his face from the house of
- 18 Israel. I will hope for him. I
and the two children whom the
Eternal has given me are omens
and portents set in Israel by the
Lord of hosts, who dwells on
Sion hill.
- 19 When they tell you to con-
sult mediums and ghosts that
cheep and gibber in low mur-
murs, ask them if a nation
should not rather consult its
God. Say, "Why consult the
dead on behalf of the living?"
- 20 Consult the Message and the
Counsel of God!" But that will
only be their cry when there is
no dawn of hope for them any
more.
- 21 They shall roam through the
land, hard pressed and
hungry,
hunger driving them to rage,
till they curse their King and
God;
- they shall look up to heaven,
and look round upon earth. 22
only to see distress and dark-
ness,
anguish and utter gloom,
poor waifs of men!
Formerly he humiliated the 9
land of Zebulun and the land of
Naphtali, but now he has hon-
oured the region of Galilee's sea,
the district that the nations
hold west of the Jordan.
- The people who were dwelling 2
in the dark
have now seen a great light,
those who were living in a land
of shadows,
upon them light has shone.
Thou hast richly given them 3
gladness,
and an ample joy;
in thy presence they rejoice like
harvesters,
as men rejoice dividing
plunder.
- For thou hast broken their 4
heavy yoke,
the bar that bent their
shoulders,
and the whip of their oppressors,
as at the triumph over Mid-
ian;
- the stamping warrior's boot, 5
the bloodstained war-attire,
shall all of them be burnt,
as fuel for the fire.
- For a child has been born to us, 6
a son has been given to us;
the royal dignity he wears,
and this the title that he
bears—
- "A wonder of a counsellor,
a divine hero,
a father for all time,
a peaceful prince!"
- Great is his authority, 7
endless is his peace,
over David's throne
and his dominion,
to base it firm and stable
on justice and good order,

from henceforth and for ever—
thanks to the jealous care of
the Eternal.

* * *

8 The Lord's word, sent for Jacob,
shall drop on Israel,

9 till all the people feel its weight
in Ephraim and Samaria.

For in their pride and arrogance,
they vaunt aloud,

10 "The bricks have broken down,
but we will build up masonry;
the sycomore-work is done,
but in its place we will put
cedar-work."

11 So the Eternal stirs their foes
against them,
he has spurred on their
enemies;

12 Aramaeans east and Philistines
west
gulp Israel down.

And yet his wrath is not abated,
his arm is stretched out still
to strike.

13 The people would not turn to
him who struck them,
they would not seek the Lord
of hosts;

14 so he lopped off head and tail,
palm-branch and rush in a
single day

15 [[the sheikhs and authorities are
the "head,"
the prophets with false oracles
are the "tail";

16 the leaders of this people mis-
lead them,
and those who are led are
lost]].

17 So the Lord spares not their
soldiers,
pitiless even to orphans and
widows;
for they are all profane and
wicked,
impiety is on every lip.

And yet his wrath is not abated,
his arm is stretched out still
to strike.

Ungodliness blazed like a fire, 18
consuming thorns and briars,
and firing thickets in the forest,
till the smoke rolled up in
clouds.

The fury of the Eternal burned 19
the land,

till the folk preyed upon each
other;

they snatched to right and still 20
were hungry,

they munched to left and
were not satisfied;

none had pity for his fellow,
each gnawed at his neighbour;

Manasseh tore at Ephraim and 21
Ephraim at Manasseh,

and both together tore at
Judah.

And yet his wrath is not abated,
his arm is stretched out still
to strike.

Woe to those who issue harsh 10
decrees,

penning orders that oppress,
robbing the weak of their rights, 2
and defrauding the poor of
their dues,

till widows fall to them as spoil,
and orphans as their prey.

What will you do at the great 3
Assize,

when the storm blows from
abroad?

To whom will you run then for
help,

and where will you put your
plunder?

Yours only to crouch low among 4
the captives,

or fall under the corpses of the
slain.

And yet his wrath is not abated,
his arm is stretched out still to
strike.

So the Eternal's anger blazes 5
against his people, 25
he stretches out his arm
against them,

- striking them till the mountains
tremble,
and corpses lie like dung upon
the streets.
And yet his wrath is not
abated,
his arm is stretched out still
to strike.
- 26 He signals to a foreign power,
whistling for them from the
end of the earth;
27 swiftly they come, speedily,
28 none tired, none tripping,
not a belt slack,
not a shoe-string broken,
28 arrows sharpened,
bows all bent,
horses' hoofs as hard as flint,
chariot wheels like whirl-
winds—
29 growling like a lion,
growing like young lions,
gripping their victim with a
growl,
bearing it off, with none to
rescue.
- 10,5 Woe betide Assyria!
He is my club in anger,
the rod I wield in wrath; '
6 I speed him against an impious
nation,
a people with whom I am
wroth,
bidding him plunder and spoil
them,
trample them down like mud
in the street.
- 7 But other plans has he,
and other aims!
His thought is to exterminate
the nations far and wide.
- 8 "Are not my very captains as
good as kings?" says he;
9 "Has not Kalno fared like
Karkēmish,
Hamath like Arpad,
Samaria like Damascus?
10 [[As I have gripped these em-
pires of idols,
idols more than Jerusalem's,
- can I not treat Jerusalem and 11
its images
even as Samaria and its
idols?"
- So when the Eternal has com- 12
pleted what he has to do on Sion
hill and in Jerusalem, he will
punish the audacious vaunting of
the king of Assyria and the arro-
gance of his pride for saying]] 13
My strong hand did it all,
my clever strategy;
I shifted the boundaries of
nations,
I plundered their treasures,
I reduced them to ashes,
and felled their folk like a
bullock;
the wealth of nations, I rifled it 14
all,
like the nest of a bird,
I ransacked the wide world
as a man who gathers eggs,
till no wing fluttered,
none dared cheep or chirp."
- Is the axe to boast over the 15
woodman?
Is the saw to decry the saw-
yer?
"Twould be like a club swinging
him who lifted it,
a staff brandishing a man!
So the Lord, the Lord of hosts, 16
will send
a wasting disease on his flour-
ishing frame,
and under his glitter a burning
heat
that glows like a flame,
consuming him soul and body, 18
till he pines away like a man
diseased.
- He who is light to Israel shall be 17
a fire,
His Majesty shall blaze like
flame,
devouring thorns and briars,
the splendid woods and gar-
dens;
and any trees left there shall be 19
so few

- that a mere child can count them.
- 24 This, then, is what the Lord, the Lord of hosts, declares: O my people, who reside in Sion, never fear Assyria, though he strikes you with his club, and lifts the rod against you as did
- 25 Egypt long ago; for very soon my fierce anger against you shall be spent, and my wrath
- 26 shall come to an end. The Lord of hosts will swing the lash over Assyria as when Midian was crushed at Ravensrock; he will raise the rod again that once he raised over the Reed Sea against Egypt long ago.
- 27 Then from your shoulders shall Assyria's load be shifted, and from your neck his yoke shall then be lifted.
- Assyria is on the march from Rimmon,
- 28 he has reached Ai, he has passed through Migron, and stored his baggage at Michmash,
- 29 he is through the pass, he bivouacs at Geba. Ramah is in a panic, Saul's Gibeah is in flight;
- 30 shriek, O folk of Gallim! Listen, Laishah!
- Answer them, Anáthoth!
- 31 Madmenah runs away, the natives of Gibbim scurry for safety.
- 32 To-day he is halting at Nob, and shaking his fist at the hill of maiden Sion, at the hill of Jerusalem.
- 33 But lo! the Lord, the Lord of hosts, is lopping Assyria's boughs with his axe: the towering trees are felled, and the lofty are laid low;
- 34 he cuts away the woodland thickets, fells the mighty cedars.
- From the stump of Jesse a shoot 11 shall rise, and a scion from his roots shall flourish;
- on him shall rest the spirit of the 2 Eternal, the spirit of wisdom and insight, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit that knows and reverences the Eternal.
- He will not judge by appear- 3 ances, nor decide by hearsay, but act with justice to the help- 4 less and decide fairly for the humble;
- he will strike down the ruthless with his verdicts, and slay the unjust with his sentences.
- Justice shall gird him up for 5 action, he shall be belted with trustworthiness.
- The wolf shall couch then with 6a the lamb, the leopard's lair shall be the kid's;
- the lion shall eat straw like any 7b ox, wolf and lion shall graze side 6b by side, herded by a little child;
- the cow and the bear shall be 7a friends, and their young lie down together;
- the infant shall play at the 8 hole of an asp, and the baby's feet at the nest of a viper.
- None shall injure, none shall 9 kill, anywhere on my sacred hill; for the land shall be as full of the knowledge of the Eternal as the ocean-bed is full of water. And the Scion of Jesse who is 10 to rally the peoples,

- him shall the nations then consult,
and his seat shall be famous.
- 11 And then will the Lord put out his hand again to recover any of his people who are left over, in Assyria and Egypt and Pathros and Kush and Elam and Shinar and Hamath and the sea-coasts.
- 12 He will give the signal to the nations,
and gather the outcasts of Israel,
collecting the scattered of Judah
from the four corners of the earth.
- 13 No more envy against Ephraim!—
the foes of Judah shall be cut off;
no longer shall Ephraim be jealous of Judah,
or Judah oppose Ephraim;
- 14 but side by side they'll swoop down west
on the slopes of the Philistines,
and plunder the tribes of the east;
Edom and Moab they shall seize,
and rule over the Ammonites.
- 15 And the Eternal will dry up the tongue of Egypt's sea,
with his hot breath,
and swing his hand over the Euphrates,
striking it into seven wadys
that men can walk dry-shod;
- 16 so shall there be a highroad for the survivors of his people to come back from Assyria, as there was for Israel on the day when it came up from the land of Egypt.
- 12 On that day you shall sing:
"O Eternal, I adore thee;
though thou wast angry with me,
thine anger has abated,
thou consolest me.
- Yes, God is my deliverance, 2
I trust him unafraid;
the Eternal is my strength, of him I sing,
he has delivered me indeed." Joyfully then shall you draw 3
upon the fountains of deliverance, and sing upon that day: 4
"Adore the Eternal,
celebrate his name,
tell the nations all that he has done,
record his mighty fame.
Chant the Eternal's praise, his 5
glorious feats;
let the whole world know of it!
Ring it out, dwellers in Sion, 6
aloud,
for great is Israel's Majesty among you."
- * * *
- The oracle on Babylon—a vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz. 13
On a bare hill, up with the 2
signal!
shout to them loud,
beckon them to enter
the gates of the proud.
For I have charged my chosen 3
host
to execute my wrath,
my heroes I have summoned,
my men of martial pride.
Hark! a din among the moun- 4
tains
as of a mighty host.
Hark! 'tis the uproar of empires,
nations gathering;
for the Lord of hosts is mustering
a battle array.
- From a far land they are coming, 5
from the ends of the world—
'tis the Eternal and the forces
of his fury,
to ruin all the earth!

- 6 Shriek away! 'tis close, 'tis the
Eternal's day,
as a mighty blow from the
Almighty;
- 7 then shall all hands grow limp,
all hearts shall melt,
- 8 and mortals be dismayed;
seized with pangs and throes,
they writhe
like a woman in labour,
staring each at the other aghast,
their faces aflame.
- 9 Here is the Eternal coming,
pitiless,
in anger and in blazing wrath,
to lay earth desolate
and destroy sinful men.
- 10 The skies and their stars
shall shed no light,
the sun shall be dark at its ris-
ing,
the moon shall never be
bright.
- 11 "I will punish the world for its evil,
the wicked for their vice,
the arrogance of proud men I
will still,
and lay the haughtiness of
tyrants low,
- 12 till man becomes more rare
than finest gold,
men scarcer than gold ore
from Ophir."
- 13 So shall the skies be trembling
and earth be overturned,
at the fury of the Lord of hosts
on the day his anger blazes.
- 14 Then, like hunted gazelles,
like sheep unshepherded,
shall men be hurrying home,
each off to his own land;
- 15 anyone captured is cut down,
anyone caught is stabbed;
- 16 their babes are dashed in pieces
under their very eyes,
their houses are despoiled,
their wives are ravished.
- 17 Against them I raise up
the Medes and Elamites,
- who care not for silver,
nor gloat over gold;
but, bow and spear in hand, 18
fearful, ferocious,
young men they cut to pieces,
maids they massacre,
a child they never spare,
on babes they have no mercy.
So shall Babylon, the splendour 19
of empires,
the proud glory of the Chal-
daeans,
fare as Sodom and Gomorrah
fared
when God overthrew them.
- Never shall it be tenanted, 20
forlorn from age to age;
there no nomads pitch their tents,
no shepherds fold their flocks;
wild cats shall litter there, 21
and jackals fill the houses,
ostriches shall live there,
and wild goats shall leap,
hyenas howl within the castles, 22
wolves inside the lordly halls.
And this, her doom, is near,
her days shall not be long.
[[For the Eternal will have 14
pity upon Jacob and once more
take Israel as his own, settling
them in their own country,
where foreigners shall join them
and attach themselves to the
household of Jacob. The house- 2
hold of Israel shall be con-
ducted home by outside nations,
and then Israel shall hold them
as slaves in the land of the
Eternal, thus making captives
of their former captors, and rul-
ing over their oppressors. Then 3
shall it be that after the Eternal
grants you relief from your
agony and misery and the slav-
ery you have had to suffer, you 4
shall raise this taunt-song
against the king of Babylon,
crying:]]
How the tyrant is hushed,
his mad rage hushed!

- 5 The club of the godless has the
Eternal crushed,
the rod of oppression,
6 that beat the nations in a pas-
sion,
blow after blow,
that enslaved races in a fury
and never let them go.
7 Now the whole earth lies at
peace,
bursting into song;
8 the very cypresses exult,
the cedars of Lebānon cry,
"Since you are fallen,
no man seeks to fell us."
9 The underworld is astir to greet
you,
astir to meet you,
rousing all the ghosts for you,
that on earth were chieftains,
moving monarchs of the world
from their thrones,
10 to hail you, one and all of them,
to cry to you,
"So you are weak now as we
are?
So you fare as we fare?"
11 Your pomp has passed down to
the world below,
you and your peals of music?
Maggots are spread under you,
around your coverlet!"
12 What a fall from heaven on
high,
O shining star of the dawn!
How low and limp you lie,
who once swayed all the na-
tions!
13 You, who once said to yourself,
"I will scale the sky,
I will set my throne supreme
above the stars on high,
I will sit on the hill of the gods
in the far, far north;
14 I will scale the cloud-banks,
and rival the Most High!"
15 And down you drop, to the
world below,
down to death's abyss you
go!
- Those who see you scan you, 16
mark you and then muse,
"Is this the man who made
earth tremble,
who shook empires,
who made a desert of the world, 17
demolishing its cities,
who never let a prisoner go,
to return home?"
The kings of nations sleep in 18
honour,
each within his tomb;
but you are flung down where 19
dead bodies lie,
of men the sword has slain,
unburied like a corpse trod un-
der foot,
like a scion disowned. . .
You shall sleep not with your 20
fathers
in the grave;
for your country you have
wasted,
your people you have killed.
Never be the wicked's race
mentioned upon earth!
His sons be slaughtered, 21
for their father's guilt,
lest they go on to seize the
world
and multiply on all the earth!
- I will rise against Babylon, 22
the Lord of hosts declares, strip-
ping it of its renown and of its
remnant, of citizen and scion,
the Eternal declares; I will turn 23
it into pools of water and make
it a mere haunt of bitterns; I
will sweep it with a broom of
bale, the Lord of hosts declares.
.....
The Lord of hosts has sworn: 24
"As I have planned, so shall it
stand,
as I have purposed, so shall
it be;
the Assyrians I crush within 25
my land,
and on my hills I trample them,

- till from my people's shoulders
shall their load be shifted,
and from their neck the As-
rian yoke be lifted.
- 26 So is it in my purpose for the
world,
so I stretched out my arm
against all nations.
- 27 The Eternal's purpose who can
disannul?
His outstretched arm, who
turns it back?"
- * * *
- 28 This oracle was in the year
before king Ahaz died:
- 29 "Rejoice not, all ye Philistines,
at the breaking of the club
that beat you,
for from the snake a viper
springs,
a flying serpent issues.
- 30 The very poorest shall find pas-
ture in my meadows,
there the needy shall be
safe;
but I will slay your folk with
famine,
I will kill off your survivors.
- 31 Shriek at your gates, scream in
your towns,
faint in your terror, all ye
Philistines!
For smoke is rising from the
north,
and yon invader's ranks are
close.
- 32 What answer shall my people
give
the envoys of Philistia?
This, that Sion is founded by
the Eternal,
and there shall his forlorn
folk shelter."
- * * *
- 15 The oracle on Moab:
"Ah, in the night Ar-Moab was
stormed,
was wrecked!
Ah, in a night Kir-Moab was
stormed,
was wrecked!
- The Dibonites climb to their 2
shrines
to wail;
on Nebo and Medēba
Moabites howl;
all their heads are shaven,
every beard is clipped;
all wear sackcloth in the streets, 3
bathed in tears,
on the housetops, in the squares
they howl.
Heshbon and Elealeh shriek— 4
'tis heard as far as Jahaz;
a shudder runs through Moab,
all hearts quiver.
- My soul cries for poor Moab, 5
as they fly to Zoar,
winding their way weeping
up to Luhith,
wailing, "We are ruined,"
on the road to Horonaim.
For the waters of Nimrim 6
are dry and waste,
the herbage withered, the grass
gone,
no green thing there;
so on they must carry, 7
on past the Wady of Wil-
lows,
what they have saved,
what they have salvaged.
The wailing sounds 8
from end to end of Moab;
'tis heard as far as Eglaim,
as far as Beēr-clim.
Even Dibon's streams run 9
blood;
yet I have more calamities
for Dibon,
I will let lions loose on those
who flee,
on those who make their way
from Moab.
- And then at the fords of Arnon 16
the folk of Moab shall flutter 2
like birds that scatter
from a rifled nest.
From Sela they sent tribute 1
by the desert road

to the ruler of the land of
Judah,
to mount Sion,
3 crying, "Help us with your
counsel,
act for us;
shelter us with your strong
shade
at the hot noon,
take in our outcasts.
betray not our fugitives;
4 let our outcasts
live within your land.
shelter Moab
from the ravagers.

For when oppression ends,
when ravaging is over,
when the tyrant's heel has
vanished
from the land,
5 then shall your throne be based
on kindness,
and in trustworthiness
shall David's dynasty sit there
to rule,
bent upon justice and in-
tegrity."

6 "No, we have heard of Moab's
pride;
they are so proud,
so insolent, so haughty.
so hollow and so loud!"

7 Moab then is left to wail for
Moab,
all Moab wails;
in misery they moan that rites
have ceased
at Kir-heres.

8 For the vineyards of Heshbon
wither,
with Sibmah's vines,
that once o'erpowered the rulers
of the world
with their rare wines.
that once stretched north to
Jazer,
and spread south to the
desert,

their tendrils pushing far,
to the Dead Sea on the west.

So I join Jazer in bewailing 9
Sibmah's vines;
O Heshbon, Elealeh,
I drench you with my tears:
for the war-cry has sounded
over your gathered grapes,
and now the land of gardens is 10
bereft

of joy and gladness;
no singing in the vineyards now,
no merriment,
no wine is trodden out from
grapes,

no liting at the vintage!
I thrill with pity for poor Moab, 11
my heart is stirred for Kirheres.
Ah, when weary Moab mounts 12
the hill,

praying within the shrine to
no avail,
Moab shall then be ashamed of
Kemôsh,

and turn to the Eternal.
Such was the word of the 13
Eternal upon Moab in former
days. But now his message is: 14
"Within three years, no more,
no less, shall Moab's glory be a
mockery, for all her mighty
throng of people; and few and
feeble shall be any who sur-
vive."

* * *

An oracle on Damascus: 17
Soon shall Damascus be no
more a city,

but lie for ever desolate in ruins, 2
her townships a sheep-run,
where flocks lie unafraid;
Ephraim shall lose its ramparts, 3
Damascus lose its royal
power,
and Aram's survivors shall
perish—
so the Lord of hosts decrees.

Then shall Jacob's strength be 4
sapped,

- his lusty vigour shall languish;
 5 'twill be as when the standing corn is reaped,
 the ears in armfuls,
 6 or as when olive-trees are shaken,
 and there is little left to glean,
 two or three berries on the top-most bough,
 four or five berries on the twigs.
- 9 Your towns shall be deserted,
 like Amorite and Hivite ruins;
 10 for you forgot the God who was your help,
 you heeded not the Stronghold of your strength.
 Therefore, though you plant gardens of Adonis,
 and stock them for a foreign god,
 11 forcing the growth, the very day you plant them,
 till they bloom for you next morning,
 all you get from them shall vanish
 on your day of dole and desperate pain.
- 7 Then shall men look to their Maker,
 and turn to Israel's Majesty,
 8 looking to nothing that their hands have made,
 turning to nothing fashioned by their fingers.
 * * *
- 12 Ah, the booming of many a people,
 booming like sea breakers!
 Ah, the thunder of great nations,
 thundering like the surge of ocean!
- 13 But the Eternal checks them,
 and they are chased afar,
 driven like chaff before the wind,
 like dust whirled by the hurricane,
 at evening a terror, 14
 and gone by the morning!
 Such is the fate of those who ravage us,
 such is the lot of those who rifle us.
- Ah, land of wingèd fleets, 18
 where the great Nile flows through,
 that sends its envoys overseas 2
 in light skiffs down the stream!
 Swift messengers, return to your people tall and bronzed,
 a terror far and near,
 a sturdy race of conquerors;
 tell them, "Let all on earth, 3
 let all men in the world,
 watch when the signal is raised,
 hark when the bugle is blown!"
 For this is the Eternal's word 4
 to me,
 "I will be on the watch from my abode,
 calm as the clear heat in sunshine,
 still as dew in harvest-tide."
 For ere the harvest, when the 5
 blossom's over,
 when berries ripen into grapes,
 he shall lop off the branches with a knife,
 and cut away the tendrils;
 the foe shall be left to vultures 6
 in the hills,
 and wild beasts of the land;
 all summer vultures shall devour them,
 and all winter the wild beasts batten on them.
- [[Then shall a present be 7
 brought to the Lord of hosts at the place where he is revealed,
 at mount Sion, from a tall,

bronzed people, a race that is a terror far and near, a sturdy race of conquerors, through whose land the great Nile flows.]]

- 19 An oracle on Egypt:
Riding on a swift cloud the
Eternal reaches Egypt;
and Egypt's idols shake before
him,
Egypt's courage melts away.
- 2 "I will spur on Egypt against
Egypt,
every man to fight his neigh-
bour, fight his fellow,
city against city, province
against province.
- 3 No spirit shall be left in Egypt;
I will confound their plans,
till they resort to ghosts and
idols,
wizards and mediums.
- 4 I will hand Egypt over to a
tyrant,
a despot shall reign over
them,"
so the Lord, the Lord of
hosts, decrees.
- 5 The Nile shall be dried up,
the river-bed shall be drained
and bare,
- 6 its branches shrivel and stink,
the canals of Egypt dry up,
reeds and rushes wither,
- 7 the meadow grass all mould-
ers,
the green growth by the Nile is
parched,
it droops and disappears.
- 8 The fishermen shall be woebe-
gone,
all who cast hooks in the
Nile,
all who spread nets in the
stream;
- 9 dressers of flax shall be at their
wits' end,
- 10 the weavers shall be daunted,
and all the workers downcast.

Poor fools are the princes of 11
Zoan,
and witless the Pharaoh's
wisest councillors.

How dare you tell the Pharaoh,
"I am a wise man's son, a
son of ancient kings"?

Where are your sages, pray? 12

Can they tell you, can they
show you,
what plans the Lord of hosts
has against Egypt?

Why, Zoan's princes are be- 13
fooled,

the princes of Memphis are
beguiled,
the leaders of her provinces
lead Egypt astray;

the Eternal has so warped their 14
judgment

that they lead Egypt all
astray,
as a drunkard staggers vomit-
ing;

high or low, palm or rush, 15
none can do anything for
Egypt.

[[Then shall Egypt tremble in 16
terror like a woman, as the Lord
of hosts swings his hand over it;
the land of Judah shall be a 17
terror to Egypt, the very men-
tion of Judah will make the
Egyptians dread what the Lord
of hosts has planned against
Egypt.

Then shall there be as many 18
as five cities in the land of
Egypt speaking the language of
Canaan and loyal to the Lord
of hosts, one of them called the
City of the Sun.

Then shall there be an altar 19
to the Eternal in the heart of
the land of Egypt, and a pillar
to the Eternal on the frontier.
This shall serve as a reminder 20
and as a witness to the Lord of
hosts within the land of Egypt;
so that, when any who are op-
pressed cry to the Eternal to

- send a champion, he will inter-
 21 vene and rescue them. The
 Eternal will make himself
 known to the Egyptians, and
 the Egyptians shall acknowl-
 edge the Eternal then, worship-
 ping him with sacrifices and
 offerings, making vows to the
 Eternal and performing them.
- 22 So the Eternal strikes Egypt,
 striking them and healing them;
 whenever they turn to the Eter-
 nal, he will heal them, in an-
 swer to their entreaty.
- 23 Then shall there be a high-
 road between Egypt and Assy-
 ria, Assyrians passing to Egypt
 and Egyptians to Assyria;
 Egyptians and Assyrians alike
 shall worship the Eternal.
- 24 Then shall Israel form a triple
 alliance with Egypt and Assyria
- 25 —a blessing to the world
 around, and blessed by the
 Lord of hosts, who said, "Blessed
 be my people Egypt, Assyria
 whom I have made, and Israel
 my own possession!"
- 20 Now the Eternal had bidden
 2 Isaiah the son of Amoz, "Go
 and strip the sackcloth off your
 waist and the shoes from your
 feet." He did so, going about
 without either robe or shoe.
- 1 And in the year when the com-
 mander-in-chief, sent by Sargon
 king of Assyria, came to Ash-
 dod and attacked Ashdod, cap-
 3 turing it, the Eternal said, "As
 my servant Isaiah has gone for
 three years without robe or
 shoe, by way of omen and por-
 tent against Egypt and Ethio-
 4 pia, so shall the king of Assyria
 drive away the captives of
 Egypt and the exiles of Ethiopia
 young and old, without robe or
 shoe, and with bare buttocks;
 5 those who had hopes of Ethiopia
 and boasted of what Egypt
 would accomplish, shall be dis-
 mayed and abashed, and people 6
 on the coast will cry, 'If this
 be the fate of those to whom we
 turned, hoping that they would
 rescue us from the king of As-
 syria, then how can we our-
 selves escape?'"
- A "Desert" oracle: 21
 Like a hurricane hurtling
 over the south-land,
 there it is driving from the
 desert,
 from the land of terror!
 A grim revelation, this for 2
 me:
 "Since the crafty still are crafty,
 since the plunderers still plun-
 der,
 at them, O ye Elamites!
 Medians, lay siege to them!
 silence all their arrogance!"
- It makes me writhe with an- 3
 guish,
 with pangs like a woman in
 travail;
 I cannot hear for pain,
 I cannot see for the shock;
 my brain is reeling, 4
 the horror appalls me;
 the twilight I love
 is turned to shuddering.
- There's banqueting in Babylon, 5
 with tables spread,
 and carpets laid!—
 Up, princes! up, to arms!
 For this is the Eternal's word 6
 to me,
 "Set your spirit on the watch,
 to tell what it can see;
 if a cavalcade it be, 7
 horsemen riding two by two,
 men on asses, men on camels,
 let it mark them heedfully."
 Then my spirit called to me, 8
 "Here on the watch, my lord,
 all through the day I stand,
 here at my post
 night after night."

- 9 Just then a cavalcade rode by,
with horsemen two and two;
and my spirit called to me,
"Babylon has fallen, fallen,
and her idols one and all
are shattered to the ground!"
- 10 My poor crushed countrymen,
down-trodden folk,
this is my message to you
from the Lord of hosts,
from Israel's God.
- 11 An oracle on Edom:
A voice is calling out of Seir to me,
"How far has the night gone,
watchman?
How far has the night gone,
watchman?"
- 12 The watchman answers,
"Morning comes, morning—
and night;
would you know more,
come back again."
- 13 An oracle on Arabia:
In the bush at even you must
camp,
you caravans of Dedanites.
- 14 Bring them water for their
thirst,
O natives of Tema,
set before these fugitives
the bread they need;
- 15 for they are flying from the
sword,
from swords so sharp,
from the bent bows,
from the press of battle.
- 16 [[For this is the Eternal's
word to me: "Within a year, no
more, no less, shall Kedar's
glory be all over, and few shall
be left of the archers that are
Kedar's army—for so the Eter-
nal, Israel's God, decrees."]]
- 22 An oracle on the glen of Hin-
nom.
Now why are you all swarming
to your house-tops,
- O shouting citizens, O surging
city,
merry-making?
No sword your dead shall slay,
they fall not in the fight,
but all your chieftains run
away
and take to flight.
So let me alone, I pray,
I would lament bitterly;
ply me not with consolation,
for my country is undone.
For the Lord, the Lord of hosts, 5
holds a day
of panic and riot and rout;
Kirites in the glen of Hinnom
undermine the walls,
Shoites scale the heights;
archers from Elam, 6
cavalry from Aram.
Kirites ready for the fray,
fill all your fairest glens 7
with chariots and horsemen
to assault your gates.
Then to your armoury in Forest 8
hall you look;
you see the great gaps made 9
in Davidsburg
[[you confine your water in the
lower reservoirs, you number off 10
the houses in Jerusalem and pull
some down in order to repair
the wall, and you construct a 11
tank between the two walls for
the water of the old reservoir]];
you never look to him who
brings all this about,
you never see who planned it
long ago!
- The Lord, the Lord of hosts, is 12
calling you
to tears and grief,
to shave your heads and gird
on sackcloth;
and here is mirth and merry- 13
making,
men slaughtering sheep and
slaying kine,
men eating flesh and drinking
wine,

feasting because "to-morrow we may die!"

- 14 The Lord of hosts has sworn to me,
you cannot expiate this evil ere you die.

* * *

- 15 Against Shebna the governor of the palace.

- The orders of the Lord the Eternal are: Come, go to yonder comptroller, who is hewing out for himself a tomb high in the rock, and erecting a place of rest for himself; ask him, "What right have you here, what relatives have you here, that you are hewing out a tomb here?"

- 17 The Eternal will grip you tight and wind you round and wrap you up

- 18 and hurl you hurtling, man of might,

like a ball into a broad, far land;

and there your glorious tomb shall be,

there shall you die,
you disgrace to the house of your lord!

- 19 I will depose you from your post,
and pull you from your dignity.

- 20 Then I will summon my servant Elfikim the son of Hilkiah and robe him in your vestment,

- 21 binding your sash of office round him and handing over your authority to him; he shall prove a father to the citizens of Jerusalem and the

- 22 household of Judah; I will lay on his shoulders the duties of the Davidic palace, so that none may shut out when he opens, nor open when he shuts

- 23 the door. I will fix him fast in his position, like a peg in a firm wall, and through him shall his

- 24 family rise to honour; his whole

family shall depend on his support, both the members and the hangers-on, the very meanest vessels of them, be they bowls or pitchers, hanging on him as a peg. And then—so the Lord 25 of hosts declares—the peg driven in so firmly shall be wrenched out and give way, till everything that hung upon it shall come down—for so the Eternal decrees."

An oracle on Tyre: 23
Shriek for sorrow, ships of Tartessus,

for your haven is no more!
You heard the tidings when you touched at Cyprus' shore.

The folk on the coast have 2 perished,

the traders of Sidon,
who traversed the sea, with their sailors

on many an ocean,
who harvested wheat from the 3 Nile,

who trafficked with many a nation.

O sea-power Sidon, 4
mother of cities,
lament in your shame:

"The youths and maidens whom in pain I bore and brought up are no more."

[[When the tidings reach 5 Egypt, the people are distressed at the tidings about Tyre.]]

Cross to Tartessus, wailing, 6
O folk of the coast!

Is yon your merry city, 7
that rose in days of yore,
that spread so far afield in days gone by?

Whoever planned this doom for 8 Tyre,

the crownèd queen,
whose merchants were very princes,

honoured in all the world?

- 9 'Twas the Lord of hosts who
planned it,
to abase man's pride,
to humble human splendour
and whate'er earth honours.
- 10 Shriek for sorrow, ships of Tar-
tessus,
for your haven is no more!
- 11 The Eternal's blow, struck at
the sea,
has shaken realms on land;
his order against Canaan runs,
that her strong forts shall fall.
- 12 No merry-making now for you,
O Sidon, a maiden deflowered!
No rest for you, even although
you cross to Cyprus! . . .
- 13 [[Look at the country of the
Chaldeans, no longer a nation;
the Assyrians have laid its cap-
ital in ruins, a place for wild
creatures of the desert; they
erected their siege-works and
overthrew its fortifications.]]
- 14 Shriek for sorrow, ships of Tar-
tessus,
for your haven is no more!
- 15 [[Then shall Tyre pass into
oblivion for seventy years, for
as long as a dynasty lasts; Tyre
will be like the harlot in the
song—
- 16 "Lift your lyre
to roam the city,
harlot whom all men forget!
Play it with fire,
sing many a ditty,
that they may remember
yet!"
- 17 At the end of the seventy years
the Eternal will restore Tyre,
till she regains her trade, traf-
ficking with all the realms of
the world over the wide earth;
- 18 what she makes by her trade
shall be sacred to the Eternal,
her profits are not to be stored
or stowed away, but what she
makes shall go to the Eternal's
devotees, to provide them with
abundant food and choice at-
tire.]]
- * * *
- Lo, the Eternal soon shall lay 24
the earth bare and wild, render-
ing it shapeless and scattering
its inhabitants; the priest shall 2
fare no better than the plain
man, the master shall fare like
the slave, mistress like maid,
seller like buyer, borrower like
lender, and creditor like debtor;
the earth shall be laid all bare, 3
the world shall be stripped
empty: such is the sentence of
the Eternal.
- The earth is drooping, wither- 4
ing,
the world is waning, wither-
ing,
and the sky wanes with the
earth;
- for earth has been polluted 5
by the dwellers on its face,
loose to laws and scorning stat-
utes,
breaking the eternal Com-
pact.
- Therefore a curse is crushing 6
the earth,
alighting on its guilty folk;
mortals are dying off,
till few are left.
- The vine-juice fails, 7
the vines are dry,
the land cries out for wine, 11
and merry-makers sigh;
no lifting now of tambourines, 8
no lifting now of lutes,
no sounds of revelry;
no singing as the wine is drunk, 9
for any liquor has a bitter taste;
- towns fall to pieces, 10
each man bolts his door;
gladness has gone from the 11
earth,
and pleasure is no more;
the cities are left desolate, 12
their gates are battered down,

- 13 and few are left on earth, as
 few
 as berries, once the olive
 boughs are shaken,
 as grapes, when once the vin-
 tage has been taken.
- 14 Some at this raise shouts of
 joy,
 acclaiming overseas the Eter-
 nal's might,
- 15 bidding the East own the Eter-
 nal's might,
 and the western shores ac-
 knowledge Israel's God;
- 16 from earth's far bounds the
 chorus sounds,
 "Now glory dawns for up-
 right men!"
 But ah I am in misery,
 in utter misery!
 For the plunderers plunder on,
 they are plundering still.
- 17 Panic and pitfall and snares
 await you,
 O dwellers upon earth;
- 18 he who scurries from the panic
 steps into the pit,
 he creeps out and is caught
 within a snare.
 For the sluices in high heaven
 are opened,
 and earth shakes to its foun-
 dations;
- 19 earth breaks to pieces,
 earth is split in pieces,
 earth shakes to pieces,
- 20 earth reels like a drunken man,
 earth rocks like a hammock;
 under the weight of its wrong-
 doing
 earth falls down, to rise no
 more.
- 21 And then shall the Eternal pun-
 ish
 the hosts of the high heaven
 above
 and kings on earth below,
- 22 bundling them into a dungeon,
 penning them inside a prison,
 till their day of doom arrives;
- the moon shall move under a 23
 veil,
 the sun shall pale,
 when the Eternal is enthroned
 on Sion,
 revealed in radiant splendour
 to his sheikhs.
- Then on this hill of Sion for all 25
 nations 6
 the Lord of hosts will spread
 a banquet of rich food and of
 rare wines,
 of marrowy dainties and of
 choice old wines;
- and on this mountain shall he 7
 strip away
 the mourning shroud from all
 mankind,
 the veil of sorrow from all na-
 tions,
 displacing death for evermore. 8
- So shall he wipe the tears from
 every face,
 and free his own folk from
 taunts everywhere
 ('tis the Eternal's own decree).
- Pass into your chamber, O my 26
 people, 20
 shut the door behind you;
 hide yourself inside, a moment,
 till his wrath blows by;
 for here is the Eternal issuing 21
 forth
 to punish mortals for their
 guilt!
- Earth shall reveal the blood
 shed on her face,
 and make all murders plain.
- Then with his great, grim, 27
 sweeping sword, 1
 shall the Eternal punish on
 that day
 the Snake in its flight,
 the Snake in its coils,
 and the Nile Dragon shall he
 slay;
- that day the Eternal shall be 12
 threshing grain

- from the Euphrates even to
Egypt,
and glean you one by one, O
Israel;
- 13 that day, when the great trumpet sounds,
men once forlorn in far Assyria,
men outcasts within Egypt's land,
shall wend their way back to Jerusalem
to worship the Eternal on the sacred hill.
- 25 "Thou art my God, O Eternal,
I adore thee, I extol thee,
for wonders planned of old
and brought to pass.
- 2 Cities thou hast laid in heaps,
citadels in ruins;
proud castles are no more,
none shall rebuild them.
- 3 At this shall tyrants own thy might,
and pagan capitals hold thee in awe,
- 3a for haughty pride thou layest low;
- 4 to hapless men thou art a strength,
a strength to the forlorn in woe;
a shelter from the storm, a shade in heat,
- 3b silencing proud men as they shout,
and humbling tyrants."
- 9 On that day men shall say,
"Here is our God, at last,
for whose aid we have waited!
Here is the Eternal for whom we waited!
O joy, O rapture—he has aided us!"
- 10 For here upon this hill
shall the Eternal grant us rest;
but Moab yonder shall be trampled down,
like straw among the dung;
- though Moab stretches out his hands,
as swimmers spread their hands to swim,
his pride shall be abased,
and all his craft with him.
- On that day this shall be the song
for Judah's land:
"Ours is a strong, sure city,
safe with walls and ramparts set by Him;
open its gates for the upright,
for folk who keep the faith.
Thou dost protect and prosper
stedfast souls,
for they rely on thee.
Always rely on the Eternal,
for the Eternal's strength endures;
he has thrown down the dwellers
on high,
the towering city,
levelling it to the earth,
laying it low in the dust,
till the oppressed can tread on it,
and the forlorn walk over it.
- For upright men the course is smooth,
for honest men thou makest the way straight.
And we have been waiting for thee, O Eternal,
yearning for a sign of thee;
we have been yearning for thee
in the night,
our spirits eagerly in search of thee.
For thy judgments bring men light,
till very pagans learn the right.
But evil men who even in a good land
will not learn to be good,
shall cease to be;
the wicked shall be swept away,
and the Eternal's majesty they shall not see.

- 11 Thou art in action,
and they see nothing;
let them see, to their confusion,
see thy jealous care for thine own folk!
Let the fire kept for thy foes,
extinguish them, O thou Eternal!
- 12 But O maintain our welfare;
for whatsoever we achieve
is all thy doing.
- 13 O thou Eternal, our own God,
others have been ruling us;
but thine authority alone
to-day we own.
- 14 These lords are dead and gone,
ghosts that return no more;
thou hast demolished them,
and made their memory fade.
- 15 Thou hast added to our nation,
extending its frontiers afar,
and winning thyself honour.
- 16 We sought thee in our straits,
we cried when we were crushed,
when thou didst chasten us.
- 17 Thou didst make us, O Eternal,
like a woman in her labour,
near her time of travail,
writhing in her pangs;
- 18 for we were labouring, writhing,
and nothing came of it;
we could not make our country safe,
or overcome the world.
- 19 O thou Eternal, thy dead shall live again,
awakening from the dust
with songs of joy;
for thy dew falls with light
and life,
till dead spirits arise."
- 27 The lay of the lovesome vine-
2 yard.
3 "I, the Eternal, I am tending it,
I water it alway;
- lest any harm befall it,
I guard it night and day.
I need no walls for it, 4
I war on any foes,
I burn them in the flames,
these thorns and thistles,
unless they cling to my strength, 5
and make their peace with me
[[Then shall Jacob run its roots 6
down,
Israel shall bud and blossom,
covering the whole world with
fruit]]."
- . . . He has struck the foe that 7
struck them
harder than the foe struck;
he has cut up their destroyers
worse than they hurt Israel.
Yet only when they grind to 9
dust
their pagan altar-stones,
and never raise again
their sacred poles and pillars,
shall Israel have their guilt for-
given—
for so their penitence must
work.
- . . . For the fortified town lies 10
all forlorn,
forsaken, abandoned, a waste,
a place where calves go brows-
ing,
where the bushes grow to
branches,
where women break off the dry 11
boughs
to kindle fires.
For the nation heed not God;
so win no mercy from their
Maker,
no favour from their Creator.
He has expelled them into exile, 8
taking issue with them,
sweeping them off with a blast
that blows hard from himself.
- * * *
- Woe to the lordly crown of 28
Ephraim and his drunk-
ards!
Woe to their wreaths, so fair
and rare,

- flowers fading upon men o'er-
come with wine!
- 2 The Eternal has a stalwart foe
for them,
that beats and batters men to
earth,
like a blast of hail, a hurricane,
like a storm of a surging flood;
- 3 and they shall be trampled
down,
Ephraim and his drunkards
with their lordly crown,
- 4 their fading flowers, so fair and
rare,
at the head of the rich valley;
they shall be swallowed like a
fig in early summer,
no sooner seen, no sooner seized,
than swallowed.
- 5 [[On that day the Lord of hosts
will be
the proud crown and the peer-
less diadem
of his surviving folk,
- 6 inspiring the judge with justice
and brave champions with
courage.]]
- 7 Yet here too men are reeling
drunk
and staggering in their cups;
prophets and priests are reeling
drunk,
fuddled with liquor;
they reel amid their revelations,
they stumble as they give
their charges;
- 8 they vomit foully over the sac-
red tables,
till not a place is clean.
- 9 "Whom is he going to in-
struct?" they say of me; "to
whom does he mean to impart
his oracles? Is it to babies
newly weaned, just taken from
the breast? For he does noth-
ing but stammer about 'law
upon law, law upon law, line
upon line, line upon line, a little
here, a little there!'" Yes, and
through stammering lips and in
a foreign tongue will God talk
- to this people, the God who 12
told them once where true rest
lay, rest for worn souls, refresh-
ing rest, and yet they would not
listen. So "law upon law," it 13
shall be, "law upon law, line
upon line, line upon line, a lit-
tle here, a little there"—that
will be all the Eternal has to
say to them—to make them
trip and tumble backwards, till
they are caught and captured.
You scoffers, ruling in Jerusa- 14
lem here,
hear this word from the Eter-
nal:
- you think you have struck 15
terms with death,
and made your compact with
the powers of doom,
so that the surging flood
can never reach you,
since you are safe behind a lie
and sheltered by a false-
hood!
- Well, this is the Lord Eternal's 16
word:
"Here I lay Sion's founda-
tion,
a rare and tested stone, secure
and solid
(he who has faith in me will
never flinch);
I will build Sion up with jus- 17
tice,
and mould it upon equity.
But your safe place the hail
shall sweep away,
and floods shall overwhelm your
shelter;
your terms with death shall be 18
revoked,
and your compact with doom
shall never hold;
when the flood rushes over,
down you go,
under its surge you sink;
every morning it surges—by 19
day and by night—
and then you learn your les-
son, to your terror!

20 (Your bed is too short, you cannot stretch yourself;
your rug is too narrow to cover you.)

21 For the Eternal shall arise, as at mount Perazim,
rise in wrath as in the glen of Gibeon,

to deal as though he dealt with foreigners,

to do his task, a task so strange to him.

22 Now, cease your scoffing,
lest your ties be drawn the tighter;

for I have heard the Lord of hosts decree

doom fixed and final for the world.

10 On that day any Israelites who
20 are left,

any survivors of the house of Jacob,

no longer shall rely on him who proved their ruin,

but rely steadily on the Eternal, Israel's Majesty.

21 A remnant, a mere remnant of Jacob,

shall come back to the Mighty God;

22 for though your folk, O Israel, are like sea-sands in number,

only a remnant of them shall return;

destruction is decreed, a flood of retribution,

23 for the Lord of hosts will carry out

doom fixed and final over all the world.

28 Listen to me, hearken,

23 hear my message, mark it.

24 Is a ploughman always ploughing,

always harrowing up the soil?

25 Once the field is smooth and level,

does he not scatter fennel seed and cummin,
planting wheat and barley,
and vetches on the border,
guided aright by the Eternal 26
and prompted by his God?

Then, fennel is not threshed 27
with sledges,

cummin never needs a cart-wheel;

men thresh fennel with a stick,
and cummin with a flail;

bread-corn is not ground to 28
pieces,

no one threshes it for ever,
but, once the cart-wheel passes

o'er it,
we spread it out, instead of

crushing.

'Tis the Eternal who this lore 29
supplies,

so great a Guide, so wonderfully wise.

* * *

"Woe to you, God's own hearth 29
and altar,

O City where David camped!

Let a year or two pass,

and the feasts go round,

then I will press upon this 2
hearth and altar,

till moaning and bemoaning
rise;

I will sacrifice the altar,

I will beleague you, 3

I will besiege you close,

and set up forts against you.

Then shall you lie and whisper 4
on the ground,

murmuring humbly from the
very dust,

thin as a ghost's your voice
shall sound,

a faint low twitter from the
dust."

Then swiftly, suddenly, 5c
the Lord of hosts will punish 6

you

with thunder, earthquake, and
a dreadful din,

- with storm, with whirlwind,
and devouring flames.
- 5a [[But the horde of your foes
like dust shall be shattered,
5b the horde of the tyrants
like chaff shall be scattered;
7 the horde of all nations
pressing on God's altar,
they and all their array
shall vanish away,
like a dream in the night.
8 As a hungry man dreams he is
eating
and wakens still hungry,
as a thirsty man dreams he is
drinking
and wakens still faint with
his craving,
so shall the horde of all nations
fare
that war upon mount Sion.]]
- 9 Dazed shall you be, and amazed,
blind shall you be, blind,
fuddled—not with wine,
reeling—not with liquor;
10 for the Eternal has drenched
you with stupor,
closing your eyes and cover-
ing up your heads,
11 till the sight of all this is to
you
no more than words in a
sealed scroll." [[When men
place it in the hands of a
scholar, asking him to read it,
he answers, "I cannot; the scroll
is sealed." When it is handed
12 to an illiterate person, to be
read, he answers, "But I can-
not read."]]
- 13 "Since this people draw near
me with their mouth,"
says the Eternal,
"honouring me with their lips,
while their hearts are far re-
mote;
since their religion is a mockery,
a mere tradition learned by
rote;
- I will now deal with them to 14
their amazement,
bewildering, surprising them,
till their wise men lose their wits,
and their clever men are
fooled."
Woe to the men who hide 15
their plans from the Eternal,
working in the dark, and think-
ing,
"No one sees or knows!"
Perverse creatures that you are! 16
Is a potter no more than his
clay?
Dare anything deny its maker?
Dare a pot hold the potter
has no mind?
- "O self-willed sons," says the 30
Eternal,
"bent on no plan of mine,
weaving a treaty that I never
sanctioned,
and adding sin to sin;
who move away to Egypt 2
without consulting me,
to shelter beside the Pharaoh
and get Egypt to protect
them!
Your shelter shall bring shame 3
to you,
your protector shall confound
you.
Your princes camp at Zoan, 4
and your envoys reach Hanes.
all bearing gifts 5
to a nation of no use to you,
a people that will bring no help
or profit,
but only shame, disgrace.
Through the desert to the south, 6
over a toilsome, trying land,
land of the lion and fierce lion-
ess,
land of the viper and the
winged snake,
they bear their wealth upon the
backs of asses,
their treasures on the camels'
humps,
to a nation of no use to them,

- 7 whose aid is vain and idle
[hence my name for it, 'Dragon
Do-nothing'!!!]
- 8 Now, go in and write this down,
write it on a scroll,
to serve in after-days
as a witness for all time.
- 9 It is a race rebellious,
a faithless brood,
children who will not listen
to any of the Eternal's laws,
- 10 who refuse visions from their
seers
and true words from their
prophets,
who would have only smooth
things told them,
only illusions prophesied.
- 11 'Out of our way,' they cry,
'clear out from us,
and trouble us no more with talk
of Israel's Majesty.'
- 12 Well, here is the reply
of Israel's Majesty:
Since you despise my warning
and trust in wile and guile,
and lean on your own policy,
- 13 this guilt of yours shall split
you,
like a high wall bulging to
break,
till swiftly, suddenly,
down it crashes;
- 14 as a man smashes
a pitcher in pieces,
so wantonly that not a shred
remains
to fetch fire from the hearth
or water from the well."
- 15 The Lord, the Eternal, Israel's
Majesty,
he had declared,
"Your safety lies in ceasing to
make leagues,
your strength is quiet faith."
- 16 But this you would not have,
you answered, "No,
we must have cavalry to make
a charge!"—
your charge shall be a flight;
- "we need swift horses"—
swift shall be your pursuers;
let but five threaten, you shall 17
fly,
till few are left of you,
lonely like any pole upon the
hills,
like any signal on a mountain-
top.
- Woe to those who make their 31
way
for help to Egypt,
relying on her horse,
and on her force of chariots,
relying on her cavalry
(they are so strong!)
and never heeding Israel's
Majesty,
never consulting the Eternal!
Yet the Eternal has his own 2
plans—doom
and threats that may not be
recalled;
he will attack these schemers,
and their evil allies.
- Egyptians are but men, not 3
God,
their cavalry are only mortal;
let the Eternal only strike,
then shall supporter and sup-
ported both
collapse and crumble.
- For this is the Eternal's word to 4
me:
As a lion or young lion
growls over his prey,
when the shepherds are all sum-
moned
to attack him;
as their shouting never scares
him,
as their din never daunts
him,
so shall the Lord of hosts
hold fast mount Sion.
Like a bird fluttering above its 5
nest,
shall the Eternal ward Jeru-
salem,

- shielding her and saving her,
sparing and preserving her.
- 6 O men of Israel, come back to him
whom you have deeply wronged;
- 7 for on that day must men disdain
the gold and silver idols
each has made.
- 8 Then falls Assyria, by no hero's sword,
destroyed, but by no mortal blade;
Assyrians fly before the Sword,
- 9 their very god flies in a panic,
their princes scatter in sheer terror,
their soldiers are made serfs—
by order of the Eternal, whose hearth is in Zion,
whose home-fires are within Jerusalem.
- 29 Soon, very soon,
17 shall forests turn to orchards,
and orchards be like woods.
- 18 Then even the deaf shall hear the word,
and blind souls see out of their gloom;
- 19 then humble folk shall find new joy in the Eternal,
the poorest shall exult in Israel's Majesty.
- 20 For tyrant foes will vanish,
and scoffers be no more,
and all men keen on crime shall be wiped out,
- 21 men who gave false evidence,
deceiving judges on the bench,
defrauding good men with a quibble.
- 22 This therefore is the word of the Eternal,
the God of Jacob's house,
who rescued Abraham:
"Never again shall Jacob be dismayed,
never again disgraced;
- for once they see all that I do 23
among them,
they will revere me,
they will revere the Majesty of Jacob,
they will hold Israel's God in awe;
the erring will gain insight, 24
and murmurers will accept the truth.
- So the Eternal longs to favour 30
you,
and moves to show you pity;
for the Eternal is a loyal God;
happy are all who long for him!
- No more tears for you, 19
O folk of Zion in Jerusalem!
For he will show you favour
when you sigh,
and answer you, soon as he hears your cry.
- Though scant and scarce may 20
be
your bread and water from the Lord,
yet he your Teacher never leaves you now;
you see your Teacher for yourselves,
and when you swerve to right 21
or left,
you hear a Voice behind you whispering.
"This is the way, walk here."
Then all your idols shall you 22
desecrate,
metal or wood, plated with gold or silver,
flinging them from you in disgust,
and bidding them begone.
Rain shall be sent you for the 23
seed
you sow upon the field,
and heavy crops of wheat the earth
shall amply yield.
Your cattle shall go grazing
over pastures broad;

24 oxen and asses for the plough
shall eat their fodder, mixed
with salt,
and winnowed well.

25 Even on the upper slopes and all
high hills
streams shall be flowing,
upon that Day of doom and
slaughter,
when the foe's forts are fall-
ing;

26 and moonlight glows like sun-
light,
and the sun shines sevenfold
strong,
on that Day when the Eternal
heals his folk,
when he binds up their
wounds.

27 Here comes the Eternal from
afar
in blazing wrath, with heavy
thunder-clouds,
with angry foam upon his lips
and a tongue like a devouring
fire,

28 breathing fury like a flood
that reaches to a man's neck,
to sift the nations till they are
undone,
to drive men with a halter to
their doom!

29 Then shall a song be yours like
the song
on a festival night,
as joyous as men who with
music are moving
to Israel's great God, to the
Eternal's hill.

30 And the Eternal will thunder
in triumph,
and swing his arm down plain,
in a fury of anger, with flames
that devour,
storming with hail and with
rain.

31 At the Eternal's voice of
thunder,
the Assyrians are appalled;

he fights them to the death and 32
clubs them down,
to peals of music;
the pyre to burn them is pre- 33
pared,
both deep and wide,
piled high with logs set blazing
by the breath
of the Eternal like a fiery tide.

One day a King shall reign in 32
justice,
with princes that rule up-
rightly,
each like a shelter from a storm, 2
a refuge from sore rain,
like streams of water in a
parched waste,
like the shade of a cliff in a
dry plain.

Then eyes that see shall not be 3
closed,
and ears that hear shall listen;
the hasty shall learn how to 4
judge,
and stammerers shall speak
clearly;
the impious shall be called no 5
more "your honour."
and knaves no more be
ranked as noblemen.

For the impious talks impiously, 6
his mind is bent on evil,
to do ungodly deeds
and to malign the Eternal;
he leaves hungry folk to starve,
and stints the thirsty of their
drink.

The knave has knavish ways. 7
the villain plans
to ruin poor folk with his lies,
though they are in the right;
but noble are the noble's plans. 8
and nobly does he make them
good.

O women lolling at your ease, 9
hear what I say!

- O daughters in your careless
confidence,
mark this my word!
- 10 In little more than a year,
you shall be shuddering, de-
spite your confidence;
for the vintage shall fail,
and no fruit be gathered.
- 11 Then tremble, women at your
ease,
shudder, you careless crea-
tures,
strip yourselves bare,
with sackcloth round your
waist,
- 12 and beat your breasts in mourning
for fair fields and fruitful vines,
- 13 for the country of my people
overgrown with weeds,
for all the country-houses,
and the festive capital,
- 14 the citadels forsaken,
the busy towns abandoned,
their high ground for all time
an empty waste,
where the wild ass shall roam,
where flocks shall graze;
- 19 for the forests shall be felled,
and the capital laid low.
- 15 Yet one day from the heights of
heaven
a spirit shall breathe into us,
till the downs grow like an
orchard,
and the orchard like a forest;
- 16 justice fills the very downs,
and honesty the orchards,
- 17 and justice brings us peace and
quiet,
honesty renders us secure;
- 18 my people shall have homes of
peace
and rest in houses undisturbed.
- 20 Ah, happy folk, to sow land
watered everywhere,
and let your ass and ox range
free!
- * * *
- 33 Woe to you, O ravager, whom
none has ever ravaged!

Woe to you, O plunderer,
whom none has ever plun-
dered!

Once your ravaging is over,
ravaged shall you be,
once your plundering is past,
plundered shall you be.

O thou Eternal, show us favour, 2
we have been waiting for
thee;
be our strong arm, morn after
morn,
deliver us, all forlorn.

At the sound of thy storm the 3
nations flee,
men scatter once thou stirrest,
till we loot them like locusts, 4
and swarm like grasshoppers
over their spoil.

The Eternal is supreme, he 5
dwells on high;
justice and equity he pours on
Sion,
a saving wealth of knowledge 6
and of wisdom,
and godly reverence as our
treasure.

When warriors wail in the open, 7
and the envoys of peace weep
sore,
at treaties broken by the ruth- 8
less foe,
reckless of any pledge;

when the land laments and lan- 9
guishes,
when Lebânon withers in
shame,
and Sharon sinks to a desert,
and Bashan and Karmel are
leafless;

the Eternal cries, "Now I arise, 10
I will exalt myself;
foes of my folk, your plans are 11
all futile,

- your fury shall consume yourselves;
- 12 nations shall be burned to ashes,
like thorn-bushes cut and kindled;
- 13 till lands afar hear all that I have done,
and the near lands own my might."
- 14 In Sion sinful men are terrified,
the impious are seized with shuddering,
crying, "O who can live with such a Fire?
Who can live on, with such a lasting Flame?"
- 15 He who scorns to profit by oppression,
he who will not clutch at any bribe,
he who listens to no plans of murder,
he who will not look at crime,
he who lives uprightly, just in word and deed,
he shall dwell far out of reach of harm,
- 16 as in a stronghold on the cliff,
secure,
his bread provided, and his water sure.
- 17 Your eyes shall see the King in all his splendour,
and gaze upon his broad domain;
- 18 till, musing on the terror that has vanished,
you ask, "Where are the tyrant's officers,
who taxed us, charged us, took our tribute?"
- 19 These insolent creatures you shall see no more,
- that folk with foreign tongue mysterious,
who chattered in a jargon meaningless.
- No, you shall see your quiet home,
Jerusalem immovable, a tent whose pegs are never to be pulled up,
whose ropes are never to be rent.
- And there instead of broad streams circling round
we have the glorious Eternal as our river,
a river never raided by a galley, sailed by no ships of war;
- the Eternal himself rules us,
the Eternal is our captain,
the Eternal is our king,
he, he alone, defends us;
- even blind folk then shall share rich plunder,
even lame folk loot at large;
none in the land shall say then: "I am sick,"
for all who live there have their sins forgiven.
* * *
- Draw near, O nations,
hear, O peoples,
listen, O earth and all earth holds,
O world of men!
- For the Eternal is wroth against all nations,
furious with the host of them;
he has doomed them to destruction,
left them to be massacred;
- their slain shall be flung out,
and a stench rise from their corpses;
the mountain shall be running with their blood,

- 4 the hills are drenched and all dissolve;
the very sky shall roll up like a scroll,
and all the stars shall fade,
as leaves fade from a vine,
and foliage from a fig-tree.
- 5 For the Eternal's sword in heaven
is tempered keen with fury;
and there it flashes down on Edom,
dooming that accursed race!
- 6 The Eternal's sword is gorged with blood,
greased with the fat of its victims,
with blood of common human folk,
with fat of the low crowd;
- 7 and leaders shall be struck down too,
nobles and notables;
for the Eternal holds a sacrifice at Busairah,
and slaughters victims in the land of Edom;
- their blood shall soak the country,
and their fat shall smear the dust;
- 8 'tis the Eternal's hour of vengeance on them,
to repay them for all their wrongs to Sion.
- 9 All streams turn into pitch,
the very dust turns brimstone;
the land is a mass of pitch
that burns on, night and day,
- 10 that never shall be quenched—
age after age its smoke goes up—
it lies waste for all time,
and no man crosses it;
- a haunt of pelicans and bitterns, 11
a place for owls and ravens,
marked out for wreck and wrack
by the Eternal,
measured for abolition.
- Demons haunt the spot, 12
for the nobles now are gone;
there no kingdom is proclaimed,
the princes are no more;
- thorns thrive, where once were 13
palaces,
nettles and thistles fill the forts;
there jackals prowl,
there quarter ostriches,
- wild cats hunt with hyenas, 14
and demon calls to demon;
there vampires settle
and make themselves a home;
- there nest the arrow-snakes and 15
lay their eggs,
brooding and hatching them out;
there vultures gather,
none without its mate;
- these creatures are all called by 16
the Eternal,
and not one fails to come;
the Eternal has himself commanded them,
and at his impulse have they gathered;
- he has allotted them the land, 17
he has assigned it as their home,
theirs for all time,
their haunt from age to age.
- Let desert and dry land be glad, 35
let steppes rejoice and flower,
flowering like narcissus blooms,
and ringing with delight,
sharing Lebánon's · lavish 2
growth,

Sharon and Karmel's splendour,
and seeing thus the Eternal's
living power,
the splendour of our God!

3 Put heart into the listless,
and brace all weak-kneed
souls,

4 tell men with fluttering hearts,
"Have courage, never fear;

here comes your God,
he will avenge his folk,
here comes God's retribution,
he comes himself to save
you!"

5 And then the blind shall see,
the deaf shall hear;

6 then shall the male leap like a
deer,
and dumb tongues sing for
joy.

For in the desert brooks break
out,

streams in the very steppes;
7 parched land becomes a pool,
dry ground gushes with
water;

the jackals' and hyenas' lair
shall turn to pasture for your
flocks,

and reeds and rushes shall be
flourishing
where once the ostrich quar-
tered;

8 a stainless highroad shall ap-
pear,
its name "The Sacred Way";
no soul unclean shall tread it,
no impious foot shall wander
o'er it;

9 no lions shall ever haunt it,
no wild beast shall leap on it;
but on it the redeemed shall
walk,

those whom the Eternal has
set free;

they come home to Sion singing, 10
crowned with an unending joy;
joy and gladness overtake them,
sorrow and sighs forsake
them.

* * *

Now Hezekiah fell ill and was 38
at the point of death; the
prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz
went and gave him this message
from the Eternal, "Put your
affairs in order, for you are to
die, not to recover." Then 2
Hezekiah turned his face to the
wall and prayed to the Eternal.
"O Eternal, pray remember 3
how I have lived ever mindful
of thee, honestly and heartily,
and how I have done what was
right in thy sight!" Hezekiah 4
wept aloud. Then this word
came from the Eternal to Isaiah:
"Go and give Hezekiah this 5
message from the Eternal, the
God of his father David, 'I have
heard your prayers, I have seen
your tears, and I now add fif-
teen years to your life; also I 6
will rescue both you and this
city from the king of Assyria.
I will defend this city.' " Then 21
Isaiah ordered a poultice of figs
to be applied to the eruption,
that he might recover. And 22
when Hezekiah asked, "What
is the sign that I shall go up
to the temple of the Eternal?"
he answered, "This shall be a 7
sign to you from the Eternal
that he will do as he has prom-
ised; he will put back the 8
shadow of the sun for ten steps
on yonder dial of Ahaz." And
the shadow of the sun did move
back for ten steps on the dial.

A piece composed by Heze- 9
kiah king of Judah, after he had

- been ill and had recovered from his illness:
- 10 Methought I must depart when life was at its noon, and pass within death's portals for my remaining years;
- 11 methought I was no more to see the Eternal in the land of the living, and never to behold a man again within this world.
- 12 "My home is broken up," I wailed, "pulled up like a shepherd's tent; my life is rolled up like a web, cut from the thrum; in one day I am doomed,
- 13 and all the night I moan, for my agony is like a lion, breaking every bone."
- 14 Murmuring like a swallow, moaning like a dove, I lifted longing eyes to heaven, crying, "Remember me, release me, O Eternal!
- 15 And yet what can I say to him, who himself does this to me? I toss on through the hours of sleep in bitterness of soul.
- 16 O Lord, my heart in hope relies on thee; refresh me and revive me, grant me recovery;
- 17 Oh! keep my life from dropping down to the pit of doom! Oh cast behind thy back all my iniquities!"
- 18 For death-land cannot thank thee, death cannot sing thy praise, and those who pass down to the pit have no hope of thy love;

'tis living men who praise thee, 19 as I praise thee to-day—the father telling to his sons how true thou art.

[[Be pleased, O thou Eternal, to 20 deliver us; then all our days we shall make music at thy house unto thy praise.]]

It was then that Merodach- 39 baladan, son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent eunuchs with a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been ill. Hezekiah was delighted, 2 and displayed all his treasures, the silver, the gold, the spices, and the precious oil in his stores, besides his armoury; there was nothing in his palace or indeed in all his realm that he did not display to them. But the 3 prophet Isaiah went to king Hezekiah and asked him, "What did these men say? Where may they have come from?" Hezekiah replied, "They have come from a far country, from Babylon." "And what did they 4 see in your palace?" Hezekiah answered, "They saw everything in my palace; there is nothing of all my treasure that I did not show to them." Then 5 said Isaiah to Hezekiah, "Listen to this word from the Lord of hosts: 'The day is coming 6 when all in your palace, with all that your fathers have ever stored up, shall be carried off to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the Eternal. 'The sons 7 born to you, born of your body, shall be taken away to be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'" "Very 8 good," said Hezekiah to Isaiah; "so the Eternal has spoken by

you" (thinking to himself that there would be no trouble or change at least so long as he was alive).

- 36 It was in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah that Sanchërib king of Assyria marched against all the fortified towns of Judah and captured them. The king of Assyria sent his staff-commander with a large army from Lakhish to king Hezekiah at Jerusalem; he took up a position beside the conduit of the upper pool on the way to Fuller's Field, and when Elfikim the son of Hilkiah, who was prefect of the palace, with Shebna the secretary and Joab the son of Asaph the chancellor, came forward, the staff-commander gave them this message for Hezekiah: "The great monarch, the king of Assyria, asks Hezekiah, 'On what are you resting your confidence? You think mere talk will do as policy and power in war? Who are you trusting to, that you rebel against me? You trust to this broken reed of a staff, Egypt, that will pierce the hand of any man who leans upon it! That is all the Pharaoh king of Egypt does for anyone who trusts to him. If you tell me that you trust to the Eternal your God, is this not the very Eternal whose shrines and altars Hezekiah has removed, telling Judah and Jerusalem that they are to worship at this altar here?' Come," added the staff-commander, "make this wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you can put as many riders on their backs! How, then, can you repulse even the weakest of my master's officers, trusting to Egypt for chariots

and cavalry? Have I marched against this country to destroy it, without the sanction of the Eternal? No, the Eternal told me to march against this country and destroy it." Elfikim the son of Hilkiah and Shebna and Joab said to the staff-commander, "Pray speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it; do not speak to us in the Jews' language, with the people listening on the wall." But the staff-commander replied, "Did my master send me with this menace for your master and for you, and not for the men sitting on the wall—doomed along with you to eat their own dung and drink their own urine?" And the staff-commander stepped forward, shouting aloud in the Jews' language, "Listen to this word from the great monarch, the king of Assyria! The king warns you not to let Hezekiah delude you; he will never be able to save you. Nor let Hezekiah induce you to trust in the Eternal by telling you that the Eternal will be sure to save you and prevent this town from falling into the hands of the king of Assyria. Never heed Hezekiah. The king of Assyria's advice to you is 'Make your peace with me, surrender to me, and then you can each eat the fruit of your vine and your fig-tree and drink from your own water-supply, until I come to deport you to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. Beware of letting Hezekiah persuade you that the Eternal will save you. Has any god of any nation ever yet saved his land from the hands of the king of Assyria? Where

are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? And have the gods of Samaria saved Samaria from me? What gods, of all the gods of these lands, have saved their lands from me, that the Eternal should now save Jerusalem from me?" The men said nothing, they made no reply, for the king had ordered them to make no answer.

22 Elfikim the son of Hilkiah, who was prefect of the palace, Shebna the secretary, and Joab the son of Asaph the chancellor, then went, tearing their clothes, to Hezekiah, to report what the staff-commander had said.

23 When Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and went into the temple of the Eternal; Elfikim the prefect of the palace, Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests he sent, robed in sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, with this message from Hezekiah: "This is a day of distress, of disruption, and of disgrace: 'children come to birth, and no strength in the mother!' It may be that the Eternal your God will hear all that the staff-commander has said, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to insult the living God; it may be that the Eternal your God will have some retort for the words he has heard. Pray, then, for this remnant of the people." When the deputation from king Hezekiah came to Isaiah, he gave them this message from the Eternal for their master: "Fear not what you have heard from these officers of the king of Assyria who blasphemes me. I will dispirit him by making

him hear a rumour, so that he will go back to his own country and fall by the sword in his own country."

The staff-commander, hearing that the king of Assyria had left Lakhish, went to find him besieging Libnah. But as news came that Tirhakah king of Ethiopia had suddenly marched to attack him, Sanchêrib king of Assyria went away back to Nineveh, where he lived. One day, as he was worshipping in the temple of Nisroch his god, his sons Adrammelek and Sharezer cut him down with their swords and then escaped to the land of Armenia. Esarhaddon his son reigned instead of him.

[[. . . And he sent messengers to Hezekiah with this message for Hezekiah king of Judah. "Let not your God in whom you trust delude you by promising that Jerusalem shall not fall into the hands of the king of Assyria. You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by way of utter destruction; and are you to escape? Were the nations whom my fathers destroyed saved by their gods—Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the Edenites of Telassar? Where is the king of Hamath, the kings of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, the king of Hena, or the king of Ivvah?" On receiving this letter from the messengers, Hezekiah read it and went up into the temple of the Eternal, where he spread it out before the Eternal and prayed to the Eternal, crying, "O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, enthroned upon the kherubs, thou art the God, thou only, of all realms on earth; thou hast made heaven and earth. Bend thine ear, O Eter-

- nal, listen! Open thine eyes, O
Eternal, look! Listen to this
message sent by Sanchêrib to
18 insult the living God. The kings
of Assyria have indeed utterly
destroyed all countries, O Eter-
19 nal, burning up their gods—
gods that were no gods at all,
mere things of wood and stone
that men had made; so they
20 were destroyed! But save us,
O thou Eternal our God, Oh
save us from his power, that all
realms upon earth may know
that thou alone, O Eternal, thou
art God!"
- 21 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz
sent Hezekiah this message from
the Eternal the God of Israel:
"As you have prayed to me
against Sanchêrib the king of
33 Assyria, so the Eternal declares
that the king of Assyria shall
never reach this town, never
shoot an arrow at it, never
appear in front of it with a
shield, never throw up a mound
34 against it; by the way he came
shall he return, he shall never
reach this town, the Eternal de-
35 clares, for I will defend this town,
to rescue it for my own sake and
for my servant David's sake."
- 36 That very night the angel of
the Eternal went out and killed
a hundred and eighty-five
thousand men in the Assyrian
camp; they were all found to be
dead corpses in the morning.]]
- 22 [[This is the word of the Eternal
about him:
"She scorns you, she laughs at
you,
Sion the maiden,
she tosses her head at you,
Jerusalem the maid.
- 23 Whom have you reviled and
blasphemed?
At whom have you dared
raise your voice?
- You have reviled the Lord 24
through your messengers,
vaunting, 'With my host of
chariots
I have scaled high mountains,
and reached the ravines of
Lebânon;
I fell its tallest cedars,
and its rare cypresses,
I push right into its recesses,
where its rich woods are
dense.
I dig wells abroad 25
and drink of them,
I put my foot down and dry up
all Egypt's streams.'
But have you never learned, 26
the Eternal asks,
I did all this, I planned this
long ago?
'Twas I who from the first con-
ceived it,
'tis I who make it now your
task
to lay strong fortresses in ruins,
till helpless citizens collapse 27
dismayed;
like grass in fields or on the
downs,
like grass on the house-top they
fade.
Every move you make, I know 28
it;
I hear you raging recklessly 29
at me;
so through your nose I run my
ring,
and run my bridle between
your lips,
and drive you back again
by the very road you came."
- You shall have proof of this: 30
for while you feed this year on
casual grains, and next year on
what springs from casual grains,
in the third year you can sow
and reap a crop, you can plant
vineyards and enjoy their fruit.
And what survives of the house 31
of Judah, the remnant, shall

once more strike down its roots
 32 and then rise to be fruitful; for
 a remnant of survivors shall
 spread out from Jerusalem and
 from mount Sion—thanks to the
 jealous care of the Eternal.]]

40 Console my people, console
 them—

it is the voice of your God—
 2 speak to Jerusalem tenderly,
 proclaim to her
 that her hard days are ended,
 her guilt paid off,
 that she has received from the
 Eternal's hand
 full punishment for all her
 sins.

3 Hark! there is one calling,
 "Clear the way
 for the Eternal through the
 waste,

level a highroad for our God
 across the desert:

4 every valley must be filled up,
 every mountain and hill
 lowered,
 rough places smoothed,
 and ridges turned into a plain

5 [[and the Eternal's glory shall
 be revealed
 before the eyes of all:
 such are the orders of the Eter-
 nal]].

9 Up to the high hills,
 O herald of happiness to Sion!
 Raise your voice loudly,
 O herald of happiness to Jeru-
 salem,
 raise it fearlessly,
 and tell the towns of Judah,
 'Here is your God!

10 Here is the Eternal coming in
 power,
 maintaining mightily his
 cause!

Here he is bringing what he has
 won,
 bringing what he has gained!

For he feeds his flock like a 11
 shepherd,
 and gathers them in his arms,
 he is carrying the lambs in his
 bosom,
 and leading the ewes
 gently.' "

Hark, there is one calling, 6
 "Cry!"

I ask, "What shall I cry?"
 This: that all men are grass,
 and all their glory like a flower
 in the field;

grass withers and flowers fade, 7
 because the breath of the
 Eternal blows upon them;
 grass withers and flowers fade, 8
 but the promise of our God
 stands evermore.

Who ever measured the waters 12
 in the hollow of his hand,
 or ruled the skies off with a
 span,
 or held the dust of earth inside a
 measure,
 or weighed the mountains in a
 pair of scales,
 the hills within a balance?

Who ever moved the mind of the 13
 Eternal,
 or gave him lessons and advice?
 Who ever was called in to give 14
 him counsel?

Who ever taught him to act,
 or showed him what to do?
 Why, the nations are a mere 15
 drop in the bucket,
 no more to him than dust
 upon a balance!

He lifts lands like a straw!
 Even Lebānōn is not fuel 16
 enough for him,
 nor its cattle a sufficient sac-
 rifice.

Before him all the nations are as 17
 nothing;
 to him they are but empty
 and inane.

- 18 Then whom can you compare
with God?
What can you put beside him?
- 19 A metal image!—that the work-
man casts,
and the goldsmith gilds,
41 everyone helping the other,
6 and cheering his comrade
on,
7 the workman encouraging the
goldsmith,
the carpenter the blacksmith,
the solderer plating his work,
and fastening it tight with
nails!
- 40 While he who carves an idol out
20 of wood,
chooses a tree that will not
rot,
then gets a clever carpenter
to set him up an idol that will
stand!
- 21 Can you not understand, cannot
you see?
Have you not been told this
from the first,
have you not grasped this,
since the world began?—
22 that he sits over the round
earth, so high
that its inhabitants look like
grasshoppers;
he spreads the skies out like a
curtain,
and stretches them like a
tent;
- 23 he brings nobles down to noth-
ing,
he ruins rulers of the world—
24 scarcely planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely rooted in the earth,
at a puff from him they wither,
the storm sweeps them off
like straw.
- 25 “To whom will you compare me,
then,
and equal me?” asks the Ma-
jestic One.
- 26 Lift your eyes, look up;
who made these stars?
- he who marshals them in order,
summoning each one by
name.
For fear of him, so mighty and
so strong,
not one fails to appear.
- Why do you complain, O Jacob, 27
why do you cry, O Israel,
“My fate the Eternal never
notifies,
my rights are unregarded by
my God?”
- Come now! Do you not under- 28
stand,
have you not heard,
that the Eternal is an ever-
lasting God,
the maker of the world from
end to end?
- He never faints, never is weary,
his insight is unsearchable;
he puts power into the weary, 29
and adds new strength to the
weak.
- Young men may faint and 30
weary,
the strong youths may give
way,
but those who wait for the Eter- 31
nal renew their strength,
they put out wings like eagles,
they run and never weary,
they walk and never faint.
- Come to me, O lands, in silence. 41
wait until I speak, O nations;
come hither—you can speak
later on—
let us meet in argument.
- Who roused up from the east 2
the man whom victory ever
attends?
- Who lets him have nations as a
gift
and lays kings low before him?
His sword drives them like dust,
his bow like chaff before the
wind;
he chases them, and passes for- 3
ward safely,

- swiftly with feet that never
touch the ground.
- 4 Who brought this about, who
did it?
'Twas he who summoned the
generations from the begin-
ning,
'twas I the Eternal, I who am
the first
and at the last the same.
- 8 But, O Israel my servant,
O my chosen Jacob,
O race of Abraham my friend,
9 whom I fetched from afar
and called from earth's far
end,
to whom I said, "You are my
servant,
I have not rejected, I have
chosen you,"
10 fear not, for I am with you,
I am your God, be not dis-
mayed;
I will strengthen, I will support
you,
I will uphold you with my
trusty hand.
- 11 All who are enraged at you
shall be defeated and con-
founded,
those who quarrel with you
shall vanish into nothing;
12 you will not find them when you
look for them,
those men who strove with you:
they shall turn to a mere nothing,
those who war against you.
- 13 For I the Eternal your God hold
you by the hand,
whispering, "Fear not, I will
help you."
- 14 Fear not, puny Jacob, petty
Israel,
I will help you,
your champion is the Majestic
One of Israel—
it is the Eternal's promise.
- 15 Lo, I will make you a new
threshing sledge
furnished with sharp teeth,
threshing mountains and beat-
ing them small,
turning the very hills to
chaff;
you shall fan them till the wind 16
whirls them off,
and the blast scatters them,
while you exult in the Eter-
nal
and glory in His Majesty of
Israel.
- When poor, forlorn folk vainly 17
seek for water,
with tongues that are parched
by thirst,
I the Eternal will answer them,
I Israel's God will not forsake
them;
on the bare heights I will open 18
rivers,
and in the valleys fountains,
I will make deserts into lakes,
and dry land into springs of
water;
I will plant cedars in the desert. 19
acacias, myrtles, olive-trees;
I will put fir-trees in the wilder-
ness,
and planes and cypresses;
that men may see and under- 20
stand,
consider and agree
that the Eternal's hand has
done it,
that Israel's Majesty has made
it all.
- * * *
- Now, the Eternal cries, bring 21
your case forward,
now, Jacob's King cries, state
your proofs.
Let us hear what happened in 22
the past,
that we may ponder it,
or show me what is yet to be,
that we may watch how it
turns out;
yes, let us hear what is coming. 23
that we may be sure you are
gods;

do something or other
that we may marvel at the
sight!—

24 why, you are things of nought,
you can do nothing at all!

25 Here is one I have raised from
the north,

I have called him by name
from the east;

he shall trample rulers down
like mortar,

like a potter treading clay.

26 Now, who predicted this before-
hand,

who foretold it, that we might
hail it true?

No one predicted it, no one an-
nounced it,

not a word ever fell from you.

27 'Twas I who first sent word of it
to Sion,

'twas I who sent the good
news to Jerusalem.

28 As for your idols, I see no one,
not a prophet in their midst,
to answer my inquiries!

29 They are all an empty nothing,
all they do is utterly inane,
their metal images are futile
and vain.

* * *

42 Here is my servant whom I up-
hold,

my chosen one, my heart's de-
light,

I have endowed him with my
spirit,

to carry true religion to the
nations.

2 He shall not be loud and noisy,
he shall not shout in public;

3 he shall not crush a broken reed,
nor quench a wick that dimly
burns;

loyally shall he set forth true
religion,

4 he shall not be broken nor
grow dim.

till he has settled true religion
upon earth,

till far lands long for instruc-
tion from him.

Here is the message of the Eter- 5
nal, the true God,

who spread and stretched the
heavens,

who made the earth and all it
bears,

who gives breath to its people
and life to those who walk on
it:

"I the Eternal have called you 6
of set purpose,

I have taken you by the
hand,

I have formed you for the res-
cuing of my people,

for a light to nations,
to open eyes that are blind, 7

to free captives from their
bondage,

darkening lives from prison.

I am the Eternal, the true God: 8
that is my name;

I yield my glory to none other,
my praise to no idol.

My former predictions have now 9
come to pass,

and now I foretell new things;
ere ever they spring up,

I tell you of them."

* * *

Sing a new song to the Eternal, 10
sing his praise from end to
end of earth;

let the sea and all within it
shout,

far lands and all their folk;
let the wolds and their town- 11

ships rejoice,
villagers in their settlements;

let dwellers in the rock exult,
with shouts from the hill-
tops!

The Eternal sallies out like a 13
hero,

stirring his fury like a man of
war;

he lifts aloud his battle-cry,

- he proves his prowess on his
foes.
- 14 "For long I have said not a word,
I have restrained myself,
but now will I break out, like a
woman in labour,
panting and gasping;
- 15 mountains and hills I will lay
waste,
drying up all their herbage,
rivers I will turn to dry land,
pools of water I will empty;
- 16 and I will bring the blind upon
their way,
guiding them by paths they
never knew,
I will turn darkness into light
before them,
and the rough places into a
plain.
- This will I do, I promise,
I will not leave it undone.
- 17 Shame shall cover all who trust
in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
'You are our gods.'
- 43 Ah, here is a people with eyes—
8 and blind,
with ears—and deaf!
- 42 Listen, O ye deaf,
18 look up and see, ye blind!
- 19 [[Who is as blind as my servant,
as deaf as my messenger?
who is as blind as my devotee,
as blind as the Eternal's ser-
vant?]]
- 20 You have marked nothing, for
all you have seen,
you have not heard, although
your ears were open.
- 21 [[The Eternal was pleased, for
his own purposes,
to render his law great and
glorious.]]
- 22 Though the people are all snared
in holes,
hidden away in prison,
with none to rescue as they are
ravaged,
with none to deliver as they
are despoiled,
- which of you has an ear for what 23
I say,
and who will listen in future,
when I cry,
'Who let Jacob be plundered, 24
and Israel be robbed,
who vented on them his burning 25
anger
and fierceness like a flame,
scorching them, though they
knew not why,
burning them, though they
heeded not?'"
- But now, the Eternal promises, 43
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who made you, O Israel,
"Fear not, for I redeem you,
I claim you, you are mine.
I will be with you when you 2
pass through the waters,
no rivers shall overflow you;
when you pass through fire, you
shall not be scorched,
no flames shall burn you.
For I the Eternal am your God, 3
Israel's Majestic One is your
deliverer;
- I will sacrifice Egypt for you,
Ethiopia and Sabæa for your
sake;
so precious are you to me, 4
so honoured, so beloved.
I will sacrifice lands for you,
and nations instead of you.
From the far east will I bring 5
your offspring,
and from the far west I will
gather you,
I will bid the north lands give 6
them up,
and bid the south let go,
bringing my sons from afar,
and my daughters from the
end of the earth,
all whom I claim as mine, 7
whom I have formed and
fashioned for my glory.
- Muster all the nations, 9
assemble every race!

- Which of them can offer such a
promise,
such predictions?
Let them bring their witnesses
to prove them right,
that we may hear and answer,
"It is true."
- 10 You are my trusty witnesses,
the servants I have chosen,
to own me, to believe me,
to see that I am ever the
same;
no god was formed before me,
nor shall be after me,
- 11 I, I am the Eternal,
there is no saviour besides me.
- 12 'Twas I who promised to save,
I who fulfilled what I foretold,
I and no foreign god among
you—
you are my trusty witnesses
to that.
- 13 From of old I am God,
and from henceforth the
same;
no one can snatch out of my
hand,
and what I do none can re-
verse."
- 14 The Eternal, your deliverer,
Israel's Majestic One, de-
clares:
"For your sake I send an army
against Babylon,
and hustle the Chaldeans
down the stream,
all flying in their pleasure-
boats—
- 15 I the Eternal, your Majestic
One,
Israel's Maker, your own
King,
- 16 who opens a road through the
sea,
a path amid the mighty
waters,
- 17 who leads out chariots and
horses,
an army and its warriors
together,
- till they drop down and never
rise,
till they are stamped out like
a spark.
- Yet think not of the far past, 18
dwell not on the deeds of old;
here is a new deed of mine 19
springing to light—have you
no eyes for it?
- I open a road through the
desert,
and rivers in a dry place,
till the very wild beasts drink 20
to my honour,
jackals and ostriches!
[[For I grant water in the
desert,
and rivers in a dry place,
to let my chosen people drink,
to let them sound my praise, 21
the people I have formed for
myself.]]
- And yet, O Jacob, you have 22
not invoked me,
you have not troubled about
me, O Israel;
you have not brought me lambs 23
to burn,
nor honoured me with sacri-
fice;
for I never burdened you with
offerings,
I never wearied you for in-
cense.
- You have not brought sweet 24
cane for me,
you have not filled me with
rich meat of sacrifice.
- No, you have burdened me with
sins,
and wearied me with your
iniquities.
- [[Yet it is I who (for my own 25
sake) blot out your ill
deeds,
I put your sins out of my
mind;
recall to me, in your defence, 26
a single item proving you in-
nocent!]]

27 Your first father Jacob sinned,
your prophets turned against
me,
28 your princes profaned my
sanctuary;
so I abandoned Jacob to de-
struction,
Israel to be reviled.

44 But now, my servant Jacob,
my chosen Israel, listen:
2 here is the promise of the Eter-
nal who made you,
your helper from your birth.

Fear not, O my servant Jacob,
O Jeshurun, whom I chose,
3 for I pour water on the thirsty
land
and streams on the dry
ground,

I pour my spirit on your chil-
dren,
and my blessing on your off-
spring.

4 till they spring like grass among
the waters,
like willows by a watercourse.

5 One shall say, 'I am the Eter-
nal's,'
another shall call himself
'Jacob,'
another shall mark his hand
'The Eternal's,'
and be honoured with 'Is-
rael' as a surname."

6 Here is the word of the Eternal,
King of Israel,
Israel's deliverer, the Lord of
hosts:

"I am the first and I am the last,
there is no god besides me.

7 Who is like me? Let him come
forward with his claim,
let him state his case before
me.

Who foretold the future long
ago?

Pray let us hear what is still
to be!

Fear nothing, dread not in the 8
days to come;
have I not foretold it and an-
nounced it long ago?

You are my witnesses whether
there is any god,
any Power at all besides me.
Remember this, O Jacob, 21
O Israel, my witness;
you are my servant, I made
you—

O Israel, you will not re-
nounce me?

I have swept aside your ill 22
deeds like a mist,
and your sins like a cloud,
I have redeemed you; O re-
turn to me!"

Sing, O heavens, for the Eternal 23
has done it,
shout aloud, O earth below,
burst into song, ye mountains,
ye forests and all your trees!
For the Eternal has redeemed
Jacob,
gaining honour to himself by
Israel.

[[Makers of idols are all inane, 9
and their adored images are
futile; an idol's devotees are
blind and dull, their end is
shame. Who would carve a 10
god or cast an idol?—mere fu-
tilities! The spells put on it 11
make a sorry show, and its
magic charms are only man-
made; let its adherents gather,
let them come forward, and
they shall quake, they shall at
once be disconcerted. The 12
blacksmith works with the coals
and hammers the idol into
shape, plying his brawny arms,
losing strength as he grows
hungry and weary for a drink
of water. The worker in wood 13
draws lines on the block, mark-
ing them with a pencil; then he
shapes the idol with his plane

- into a human figure, comely as
 14 a man, to occupy a shrine. In
 cutting timber for this purpose
 a man will fix upon some plane
 or oak, which God planted and
 the rain nourished to serve as
 15 fuel; men kindle a fire with it
 to warm themselves, they start
 a blaze in order to bake bread.
 But he turns it into a god for
 worship; he makes it into an
 16 idol and bows down to it! Half
 of it he burns in the fire, roast-
 ing flesh upon the embers; he
 eats the roast meat and he is
 satisfied, warming himself and
 saying, "Ha, I am warm now,
 17 I feel the glow!" The other
 half he turns into a god, into
 an idol, and bows down to it,
 worshipping it, praying to it,
 crying, "Save me, for you are
 18 my god!" Such men are ig-
 norant and senseless, their eyes
 are bedaubed till they cannot
 see, and their minds closed to
 19 knowledge; none of them calls
 to mind—none has sense and
 wit enough to say to himself,
 "Half of it I burned in the fire,
 baking bread upon its embers
 and roasting meat for food; and
 am I to make the other half a
 horrid idol? Am I to bow down
 20 to a wooden image?" Ashes
 will satisfy a man who is so
 duped by a delusion that he
 cannot pull himself up by ask-
 ing, "Am I not holding to some-
 thing false and vain?"]
- 24 The word of the Eternal your
 redeemer,
 he who formed you from your
 birth:
 "I am the Eternal, maker of all
 things,
 I alone stretched out the
 heavens,
 I spread out the earth;
 who aided me?
- I confound soothsayers and 25
 their omens,
 I make diviners mad,
 I foil the sages,
 turning their wisdom into
 folly;
 but I am he who carries out 26
 his servants' words,
 his messengers' predictions,
 who says to Jerusalem, Be peo-
 pled,
 to the temple, Be founded,
 to Judah's towns, Be built—
 (for I will raise their ruins);
 who says to the flood, Be dry— 27
 I will parch up your streams;
 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my 28
 friend,
 he executes my purpose!'
- Thus the Eternal, the true God, 45
 hails Cyrus, whom he conse-
 crates—
 whose right hand I have
 grasped,
 to terrify nations,
 to open doors before him,
 to keep gates from being
 closed.
 I myself will go before you, 2
 leveling the mountains.
 I will shatter doors of bronze,
 and cut through iron bars;
 I will give you hidden treasures, 3
 secret hoards;
 for 'tis I the Eternal who call
 you by name,
 I the God of Israel.
 For the sake of my servant 4
 Jacob
 and of my chosen Israel
 I called you by your name:
 you know me not, but I de-
 light in you.
 I am the Eternal; there is no 5
 one else,
 no God besides me.
 Kings I disarm,
 but you I arm,
 that, east and west,
 men may confess

- I the Eternal stand alone—
no god besides me—
- 7 I form the light and make the darkness,
I bring bliss and calamity:
I the Eternal, the true God,
I do it all.
- 8 Shower down victory, ye heavens,
rain it from above, ye skies!
Let earth's womb open
for the birth of peace,
and let her too bear victory—
'tis I, the Eternal, who bring
this about.
- 9 Woe to the man who quarrels
with his Maker—
man a mere potsherd of the
earth!
Does the clay ask the potter
what he is doing?
does what he makes tell him
he is powerless?
- 10 [[Woe to him who asks his
father what he is begetting,
or his mother what she is
bearing!]]
- 11 And would you question me
about the future?
Would you dictate to me
about my work?
says the Eternal, Israel's maker,
Israel's Majestic One.
- 12 I, I who made the earth,
I who created man on earth,
I who stretched out the heavens
with my own hands,
I who ordered all their host!
- 13 'Tis I who have raised Cyrus of
set purpose,
smoothing the path for him;
'tis he who shall rebuild my
city,
and set free my exiles."
- shall pass before you, bowing
down to you,
in supplication, saying,
'God is among you only, be-
sides him.'
there is no god at all.
Yours indeed the God of mys- 15
tery,
a God who saves.
Shamed and disgraced 16
are all his rivals;
and they depart disgraced,
who fashion idols;
while Israel is saved by the 17
Eternal
in a lasting triumph.'
You never shall be shamed,
never disgraced,
world without end."
- For this is the message of the 18
Eternal,
the true God,
who formed the earth and fash-
ioned it,
who fixed it firm,
made it no waste,
but for inhabitants—
'I am the Eternal,
there is no god besides me:
I never spoke in secret, 19
in dark corners,
I never bade the sons of Jacob
grope for me blindly;
I the Eternal promise what is
true,
I predict honestly.
Gather together and come 20
hither,
ye who survive from the na-
tions.
Senseless are all who carry
carved idols of wood,
praying to gods that cannot
save!
Let us hear your defence; 21
consult what you can urge.
Who foretold all this of old?
Who announced it long ago?
Was it not I, the Eternal,
I God alone,

an upright God, a saviour?—
besides me there is no god.

22 Turn to me and you are saved,
all ends of the earth!

23 As I am God and God alone,
I swear by myself,
I swear a true word,
never to be recalled,
that every knee shall bow to
me,
and every tongue swear loyalty.

24 Jacob wins victory and power
by the Eternal only;
all who were enraged at him
shall be defeated and disgraced,

25 but all the sons of Israel shall
triumph
and exult in the Eternal.

46 Bēl crouches, Nebo cowers;
their idols become bales for
beasts,
lifted and laid on weary cattle!

2 They crouch and cower, these
gods together.
Rescue their loads?
They are themselves bundled
into captivity!

3 Listen to me, O household of
Jacob,
all who are left of Israel's
household,
my load since ever you were
borne,
whom I have carried since
your mother bore you;

4 even to your old age I will be
the same,
when you are grey-haired,
still I will sustain you;

I have borne the burden, I will
carry it,
yes, I will carry you and save
you.

5 To whom then can you liken
me and equal me,
and compare me as an equal?

6 [[Those who empty bags of gold
and weigh out silver,

hire a goldsmith to make a god
of it,
then bow down and worship
it;

they shoulder it and put it in 7
its place,
where it stands it never
moves;

it never answers any cry for
help,
it never saves a man from
trouble.

Remember that and own your 8
guilt,

lay it to heart, you rebels!])
Remember the far past 9

.
for I am God alone,
I am God and there is none
like me,

I who foretell the end from the 10
beginning,

and from of old what is to be,
saying, 'My purpose shall stand,
I carry out whate'er I choose,'
summoning a bird of prey from 11
the east,

a man for my purpose from a
land afar;

I have said it, I will do it,
I will carry out my plan.
Listen, ye who are downcast. 12
who feel far from any
triumph,

I bring my triumph near, right 13
near,

my victory is hastening;
I will grant Sion victory,
and Israel the glory that is
mine.

* * *

Down with you, sit in the dust, 47
O maiden Babylon!

No throne for you, sit on the
ground,

lady Chaldean!
Never shall you be again
dainty and delicate.

Grind meal at the hand-mill, 2
off with your veil!

- Strip your skirts, unbare your thighs,
wade through the streams.
- 3 For I am taking vengeance, I will not relent,
- 4 says our Deliverer;
the Lord of hosts is his name.
- 5 Sit silent in the dark,
lady Chaldaea!
Never again shall you be queen,
a mistress over realms.
- 6 When in anger with my people
I let my own land be defiled,
and put them into your power,
you had no pity on them;
you pressed your heavy yoke
even on the aged;
- 7 you thought that you would
last for ever,
mistress for all time,
you thought nothing of your
cruelty,
reckless of all it would bring.
- 8 So listen to this, you luxurious
creature,
lolling at your ease,
thinking to yourself,
'I am supreme,
never shall I be widowed,
never suffer loss of children';
- 9 both sorrows shall befall you
in a moment, on one day,
widowhood and loss of children,
they are on you suddenly,
in spite of all your spells,
and mighty magic,
- 10 though you feared nothing in
your tyranny,
thinking that no one saw you.
It was your magic craft and
cunning
that misled you,
till you thought to yourself
'I am supreme.'
- 11 Therefore shall evil assail you,
that you know no spells to
avert,
and mischief shall befall you,
you cannot ward from you,
and a sudden crash of ruin,
you know not how to evade.

Go on with your spells! 12
Practise all your magic arts!
Perhaps you will make something of them,
perhaps be able to scare off
your foes!

You have worn yourself out 13
with them all;
let the astrologers come forward now,
let the star-gazers save you
now,
who calculate the future,
month by month!

They fare no better than the 14
straw
burned by a fire;
they cannot save their own
lives
from the flames of war.
And that is all you find the 15
men for whom
you have spent yourself from
youth!

They stagger away, scatter,
each of them,
and there is none to save
you.

Listen to this, O household of 48
Jacob
[[you who are called by the
name of Israel,
the issue of Jacob,
who swear by the name of the
Eternal,
and celebrate the God of Israel,
but insincerely and dishonestly.
They call themselves members 2
of the sacred city,
relying on the God of Israel,
whose name is the Lord of
hosts!]],
what has occurred I foretold 3
long ago;
it fell from my lips, I predicted
it,
then suddenly I acted, and it
was done.

- 4 [[Knowing you were obstinate,
stiff-necked as iron,
with a brazen brow,]]
5 I foretold it to you long ago,
I let you see it ere ever it
occurred
[[lest you should say, 'My idol
did it,
my carved image, my metal
god brought it about]].
- 6 You heard it all, you know it,
and will you not bear witness?
Now I am showing you new
things,
secrets that you never knew,
7 things created now, not long
ago,
things you never heard of till
this hour
[[lest you should say, I knew
them]].
- 8 You never heard of them nor
knew them,
I revealed nothing to you
then
[[knowing how faithless you are,
utterly,
how you have been rebellious
from your birth.
- 9 For my own honour I defer my
anger,
I gain praise for my pity,
sparing you;
10 I purged you, nothing came of
it,
testing you in the furnace, all
in vain]].
- 11 I do this for the sake of my
own honour
[[ah, how it is sullied!]],
I will not yield my glory to
another.
- 12 Listen to me, Jacob,
Israel whom I have called:
I am evermore the same,
I am the first and I the last;
13 my hand laid the foundations
of the earth,
my right hand spread the
skies above;
- whenever I call them,
they answer to the summons.
Gather, all of you, and listen: 14
which of your idols ever pre-
dicted this,
that my friend Cyrus should
work out my will
on Babylon and the Chaldean
line?
I foretold it, 'twas I called him, 15
'twas I brought him, I have
prospered him.
From the first I made no secret 16
of it;
ever since it began, I have
been in it.
It is the word of the Eternal 17
your deliverer,
the Majestic One of Israel:
I am the Eternal your God,
training you for your good,
leading you by the right way.
If only you would listen to my 18
orders,
you would have bliss brim-
ming like a river,
and welfare ample as the
ocean waves,
your offspring would be like the 19
sands in number,
your children numberless as
grains of dust,
your name would never die.
never be lost out of my land."
- Leave Babylon, oh come away, 20
away from the Chaldeans!
Sing this aloud, proclaim it,
shout to the ends of the
earth,
that the Eternal now delivers
Jacob his servant!
Through deserts he led them, 21
and they never thirsted;
for them he made water
flow out of the rocks,
he split up a boulder
and water poured out.
- Listen to me, shores afar, 49
distant races, hearken!

- The Eternal called me from my birth,
singled me out from my mother's lap.
- 2 He put an edge upon my words,
and covered me safe with his hand;
he made me a polished arrow,
and stored me in his quiver,
- 3 telling me, "You are my servant,
by whom I will gain honour."
- 3b So I gained honour in the Eternal's eyes,
and my God was my strength.
- 4 I thought I had been labouring in vain,
spending my strength for nothing;
"But surely," I said, "the Eternal will do me justice,
my God will see to my reward."
- 5a And the Eternal who had formed me from my birth
to serve him in restoring Jacob,
in gathering Israel back to him,
- 6 the Eternal now says, "It is too slight a service
to set the clans of Jacob up again,
and restore Israel's survivors;
I now appoint you to bring light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach the world's end."
- 7 A message from the Eternal,
from Israel's deliverer, Israel's Majesty,
to one scorned openly, whom nations loathe,
whom tyrants hold in thrall:
"Kings shall start up at the sight of you,
kings and princes shall do homage,
since the Eternal aids you loyally,
and Israel's Majesty has chosen you.
For when the favouring hour 8
comes I will answer you,
and aid you when the day
for rescue dawns,
restoring the ruined land,
re-peopleing desolate places,
bidding exiles leave their prison 9
and captives come forth to the light."
On the road home food shall never fail them,
they shall find pasture even upon bare hills;
they shall not hunger, neither 10
shall they thirst,
never shall sun or sirocco plague them;
for he who pities them shall lead them,
guiding them to springs of water.
"I will make a highroad of the 11
hills,
and level every height for them."
There they are coming, some 12
from afar,
some from the north and the western sea,
some from the south land of Syenê!
Shout for joy, O heavens, re- 13
joice, O earth!
O hills, burst into song!
For the Eternal has consoled his people
and pitied his forlorn folk.
- "The Eternal has forsaken me," 14
says Sion,
"my Lord has forgotten me."
Can a woman forget her infant, 15
forget to pity her babe?
Yet even were a mother to forget,
never will I forget you.

- 16 Look, Sion, I have printed your
walls plain
on both my hands!—
your ruins are before me all
the time.
- 17 Men are making haste to build
you:
those who ravaged, those who
ruined,
now withdraw from you.
- 18 Look round you, look, your
folk are flocking in,
coming to you! I swear it by
my life—
the Eternal promises,
you shall have them to deck
yourself,
and girdle yourself like a
bride.
- 19 As for your ruins and desolate
places,
your ravaged land,
it shall be too small then to
hold your citizens,
once your invaders have been
driven afar;
- 20 your exiles shall one day
call out to you,
"The land here is too small to
hold us,
give us more room";
- 21 and you shall say to yourself,
"Now, who bore me all these
children?
I am childless, I am barren;
who can have reared these
for me?
I have been left all alone;
can these be really mine?"
- 22 The Lord declares:
"I beckon to the nations,
I signal to the peoples,
to bring your sons clasped in
their arms,
to bear your daughters on
their shoulders.
- 23 Kings shall be their guardians;
queens shall nurse them for
you;
- they shall do homage to you,
faces on the ground,
and grovel in the dust before
your feet.
- Then shall you learn that I am
the Eternal,
that none who look to me
are disappointed."
- "But can a strong man's prey 24
be snatched away?
Can prisoners of a tyrant
ever escape?"
- "Yes, prisoners may be snatched 25
even from a strong man,
even the prey of tyrants may
escape.
- I will maintain your cause,
and your sons I will rescue,
forcing your foes to prey upon 26
themselves,
to drink their own blood and
be drunk.
- Then shall the world learn that
it is I
who saves you, I the Eter-
nal."
- The Eternal, your deliverer. 50
the Eternal, Jacob's Hero.
asks,
"What writ of divorce did I
ever hand
to your mother?
Whenever did I part with you
and sell you
to some creditor?
'Twas for your evil doings you
were sold,
'twas for your sins your
mother was divorced.
- Why was there no one when I 2
came,
no one to answer, when I
called?
Think you, my hand is too
weak to deliver,
that I have no power to re-
lease you?
With one word of rebuke I dry
the sea,

- I turn streams into desert
land,
till the fish shrivel for the lack
of water,
and the sea-creatures gasp
and die for thirst;
- 3 I shroud the skies in mourn-
ing,
and cover them with sack-
cloth." * * *
- 4 The Lord, the Eternal, has
given me
a well-trained tongue,
that I may rightly answer
the ungodly;
- morning by morning he awak-
ens me
to learn my lesson,
- 5 and never have I disobeyed,
or turned away.
- 6 I let them lash my back,
and pluck my beard out;
I never hid my face
for shame and insult.
- 7 The Lord, the Eternal, he will
help me;
so I am not confounded,
I set my face like a flint,
knowing I shall not be put
to shame.
- 8 He who will vindicate me is at
hand;
who dare oppose me?
Side by side let us stand.
Who dares to charge me?
Let him draw near.
- 9 The Lord, the Eternal, he will
help me;
who then can worst me?
They shall all go to pieces like
a robe,
consumed by moths.
- 10 [[Whoever of you reveres the
Eternal,
listen to his servant's voice;
- whoever is walking in the dark,
without a ray of light,
let him have confidence in the
Eternal,
and lean upon his God.
- But you who kindle strife, 11
who set the world ablaze,
begone to your flames, all of
you,
to the firebrands you have
lighted!
- This is your fate from me,
to lie in torments.]]
- "Listen to me, all ye who seek 51
redress,
who long for the Eternal's aid;
look at the rock whence you
were hewn,
the quarry you were dug
from;
look at your father Abraham, 2
with Sarah your own mother!
He was but one when I called
him,
and I blessed, I increased him.
- Even so the Eternal consoles 3
Sion,
consoles all her ruins,
makes her desert like an Eden,
makes her steppes like his
own garden;
joy and gladness shall be found
in her,
thanksgiving and song.
- Listen to me, O my people, 4
hearken, O my nation;
the rules of my religion I send
forth
to light up every nation.
Swift and soon is my redress, 5
my victory is dawning;
mine arms shall inflict judg-
ment on the peoples,
but the sea-coasts shall hope
in me.
- Look up to the skies above, 6
look down upon the earth;

for the skies like smoke shall
vanish,
and earth wear out like a
robe,
the world itself shall crumble,
and its dwellers die like gnats;
but my deliverance endures for
ever,
my triumph knows no end.

7 Listen, all ye who care for the
good cause,

O people who lay my laws to
heart!

Fear not the taunts of men:
when they revile you, never
be dismayed;

8 for they shall be moth-eaten
like a robe,

like wool consumed by worms,
but my deliverance endures for
ever,

my triumph knows no end."

9 Bestir thyself, O arm of the
Eternal,

bestir thyself and don thy
might!

Bestir thyself as in days of old,
in ages of the past!

Didst thou not shatter the
Rahab

and pierce the Dragon
through?

10 Didst thou not once dry up the
sea,

the waters of the mighty
deep,

and make the ocean-depths a
path

for ransomed men to pass
across?

12 "Yes, I am he who comforts
you;

how can you be afraid

of mortal men, of men on earth
who like the grass shall fade?

13 Why forget the Eternal One,
who made you,

who spread the skies and set
the earth?

Why tremble all day long
at your oppressor's wrath?

When he aims to destroy you,
what comes of all his wrath?

Soon shall captives be set free, 14

they shall not starve to death
in prison;

for I am your God, the Eternal, 1

who can stir the sea to storm:
the Lord of hosts is my name.

[[I put my words into your lips, 16

and hid you in the shadow of
my hand,

when I spread out the skies and
set the earth,

when I told Sion that they
were my people.]]"

Bestir yourself, bestir yourself, 17

rise up, Jerusalem!

You have had to drink from the
Eternal's

cup of indignation,

you have had to drain his bowl,
that left you staggering.

[[She has none to guide her, 18

none of all her children;

none to take her by the hand,
of all the sons she reared.]]

Yours is a twofold trouble— 19

and who has pity on you?—
wreck and ruin, want and war:

whoever can console you?

Your sons lay swooning, 20

like antelopes within a net,
drunk full with the Eternal's

fury,
with your God's rebuke.

Poor, prostrate one, o'ercome 21

but not with wine,

listen to this now,
from your Husband the Eter- 22

nal, from your God,
who takes the part of his

people:
"I have removed from you the
cup

that leaves men staggering,
and never shall you drain again
my bowl of fury;
23 I hand it to your torturers,
to those who harrowed you,
to men who ordered you to bow
that they might pass,
your very back bent for the
feet of men
to trample o'er."

62 Bestir yourself, bestir yourself,
O Sion,
robe yourself with strength!
O sacred city of Jerusalem,
put on your rich apparel!
For pagans and profane men
never more
shall enter you.

2 Rise, shake the dust from you,
captive Jerusalem,
loosen your shackles now,
O captive Sion!

3 [[For this is what the Eternal
declares: "Once you were sold
for nothing, and now you shall
be freed without any payment.

4 My people went down to Egypt
at the outset, to live there, and
Assyria oppressed them for
5 nothing. Now," says the Eter-
nal, "my people have been car-
ried off for nothing, and how
does that profit me? Why, my
temple is thrown down," says
the Eternal, "my name is con-
6 stantly reviled! So my people
shall learn on that day who I
am, that it is I who made the
promise."]]

7 Look! 'tis the feet of a herald,
hastening over the hills,
with glad, good news,
with tidings of relief,
calling aloud to Sion,
"Your God reigns!"

8 All your sentinels are shouting,
in a triumph-song,
for they see the Eternal face to
face
as he returns to Sion.

Break into a song of praise, 9
O ruins of Jerusalem;
the Eternal has consoled his
people,
he has freed Jerusalem.

All nations have seen the Eter- 10
nal bare
his sacred arm for action,
and all ends of the earth shall
see
how our God gains the vic-
tory . . .

Away, away from here; 11
of things unclean keep clear.
Leave the place, purify your-
selves,
to carry the Eternal's sacred
vessels.

Nor need you hurry forth, 12
flying like fugitives,
for the Eternal goes in front of
you,
and your rear-guard is Is-
rael's God.
* * *

Behold, my servant Israel yet 13
shall rise,
he shall be raised on high;
as many were appalled once at 14a
his fate,
kings shuddering at his doom,
so many a nation shall yet do 15
him homage,
with kings in silent awe,
for they shall see what they
were never told,
a sight unheard of.

"Who could have believed," 53
they cry,
"what we have heard?
Whoever had the Eternal's power
so revealed to them?
Why, Israel of old grew like a 2
sapling,
like a shoot springing from
dry soil;
he had no beauty to attract
our eyes,

- no charm to make us choose him—
 52 disfigured till he seemed a man
 14b no more,
 deformed out of the semblance of a man.
 53 He was despised and shunned
 3 by men,
 a man of pain, who knew what sickness was;
 like one from whom men turn with shuddering,
 he was despised, we took no heed of him.
 4 And yet ours was the pain he bore,
 the sorrow he endured!
 We thought him suffering from a stroke
 at God's own hand;
 5 yet he was wounded because we had sinned,
 'twas our misdeeds that crushed him;
 'twas for our welfare that he was chastised,
 the blows that fell to him have brought us healing.
 6 Like sheep we had all gone astray,
 we had each taken his own way,
 and the Eternal laid on him the guilt of all of us.
 7 He was ill-treated, yet he bore it humbly,
 he never would complain,
 dumb as a sheep led to the slaughter,
 dumb as a 'ewe before the shearers.
 8 They did away with him unjustly;
 and who heeded how he fell,
 torn from the land of the living,
 struck down for sins of ours?
 9 They laid him in a felon's grave,
 and buried him with criminals,
 though he was guilty of no violence
 nor had he uttered a false word.
 But the Eternal chose to vindicate his servant,
 rescuing his life from anguish;
 he let him prosper to the full,
 in a posterity with life prolonged."
 Yes, many shall hold my servant
 blameless,
 since 'twas their guilt he bore.
 Therefore shall he win victory,
 he shall succeed triumphantly,
 since he has shed his life-blood,
 and let himself be numbered among rebels,
 bearing the great world's sins,
 and interposing for rebellious men.
 * * *
 O barren soul, who never bore, 54
 sing songs!
 Break into song, O childless one!
 For when she is forlorn, she has more sons
 than when she was wedded.
 Widen the place for your tent, 2
 spare not your canvas, stretch it out;
 lengthen your ropes,
 drive in your tent-pegs.
 Widen the place for your tent, 3
 for you shall spread to south and north;
 your sons shall take possession of the nations,
 and people towns now desolate.
 Fear not, you never shall be put 4
 to shame;
 be not confused, you shall not be confounded;
 your early shame you shall forget,
 the taunts when you were cast aside;
 ' for your husband is your Maker, 5
 the Lord of hosts his name;

- your redeemer is His Majesty of
Israel,
the God of all the earth.
- 6 The Eternal recalls you like a
wife
broken-hearted by neglect;
"But a young wife"—your God
asks—
"how can she be thrown
aside?"
- 7 I did forsake you for awhile,
but I will take you back right
tenderly;
- 8 I did turn from you in a rush of
wrath,
but with a lasting love I pity
you,
says the Eternal your re-
deemer.
- 9 'Tis like the days of Noah;
for as then I swore
that Noah's waters should
flood earth no more,
so now I swear that nevermore
will I rebuke you in my wrath.
- 10 Though mountains be removed,
and hills be shaken,
my love shall never leave you,
my compact for your welfare
shall stand firm:
so promises the Eternal in his
pity.
- 11 Poor storm-tossed soul, discon-
solate,
I will build you up on jewels,
and make sapphires your
foundation;
- 12 I will make ramparts out of
rubies,
gates for you of crystals,
and all your walls of gems;
- 13 the Eternal will train all your
builders,
- and prosper your sons mightily;
your triumph shall be stable. 14
Oppression shall be far from
you,
and nothing need you fear;
ruin shall be far from you,
it never shall come near.
- Should strife be stirred, 'tis not 15
by me;
whoever falls on you shall fall
to ruin.
- 'Tis I, I make the smith 16
who heats his furnace,
and fashions weapons by his
craft;
'tis I who make destroyers to
destroy.
- No weapon forged against you 17
shall succeed,
no tongue raised against you
shall win its plea.
- Such is the lot of the Eternal's
servants;
thus, the Eternal promises, do
I maintain their cause."
- "Ah come, all ye that thirst, 55
come to the waters,
come and eat, O fainting
souls!
- Buy food for nothing,
wine and milk without
money!
- Why spend your money on what 2
is not food,
your earnings on what never
satisfies?
- Listen to me, and you shall feed
on good,
and thrill over the finest fare.
- Hearken to me, come to me, 3
listen and you shall revive;
by an eternal compact I grant
you
the favours promised faith-
fully to David;
- for as I once made him a witness 4
to the world,
the leader and commander of
the nations,

- 5 so now shall you call foreign folk,
and strangers shall come
hurrying to you,
all for the sake of your God the
Eternal,
of Israel's Majesty who has
honoured you.
- 6 Seek the Eternal while he may
be found,
call to him while he is near.
- 7 [[Let guilty men give up their
ways,
and evil men their purposes;
let them turn back to the Eter-
nal,
who will pity them,
turn back to our God, for he
will pardon them abun-
dantly.]]
- 8 For my plans are not like your
plans,
nor your ways like my ways—
so the Eternal One declares;
nay, as heaven is higher than
the earth,
- 9 so are my ways higher than
your ways,
and my plans than your plans.
- 10 As rain and snow from heaven
fall not in vain,
but water earth until it yields
seed for the sower, food for
hungry men,
- 11 so with the promise that has
passed my lips:
it falls not fruitless and in
vain,
but works out what I will,
and carries out my purpose.
- 12 For you shall leave with joy,
and be led off in blissful
bands;
the hills shall burst before you
into song,
and all trees clap their hands;
- 13 fir-trees shall grow instead of
thorns,
myrtles instead of nettles;
and all this shall redound to the
Eternal's fame,
- a lasting monument that
never ends.”
* * *
- This is the word of the Eternal: 56
Hold to religion and do what
is right,
for my deliverance is at hand,
my triumph will be soon in
sight.
Happy the man who does my 2
bidding,
happy the mortal who holds
to it,
who keeps the sabbath and pro-
fanes it not,
who keeps his hand off any
evil deed!
Let not your foreigner say, 3
‘The Eternal will excommuni-
cate me’;
let not your eunuchs say,
‘Ah, we are but a barren
tree.’
For this is the Eternal's word: 4
eunuchs who keep my sab-
baths,
who choose what I approve,
and hold fast to my compact,
theirs is a monument within my 5
temple
nobler than any sons or
daughters,
a memorial from myself
that never shall be moved.
Foreigners who join the Eternal, 6
to worship him and love him,
serving him, men and women,
keeping the sabbath unpro-
faned,
them will I bring to my sacred 7
hill,
and make them joyful in my
house of prayer;
their offerings and sacrifices
shall be accepted on my
altar there;
my temple shall be called a
house of prayer
for every nation.
This is what the Lord the Eter- 8
nal says,

- who gathers Israel's outcasts
in:
I will yet gather others in,
besides those I have gathered.
- * * *
- 9 Wild beasts in field and forest,
all of you,
come hither and devour your
prey!
- 10 My watchmen are all blind,
they know not how to guard;
dumb dogs, every one of them,
they cannot bark—
there they lie, a-dreaming,
in the sleep they love
- 11 Yes, and greedy dogs are they,
never satisfied,
each bent on his own,
each set on his gains;
- 12 'Come, fetch the wine,
Let's swill our fill!' they
say;
'And to-morrow will be a rare
time too,
a royal day!'
- 57 Meanwhile the good man dies,
and no one heeds it;
pious men perish,
and no one cares.
The evil of the day kills off good
men;
- 2 they enter peace,
for only in the grave can upright
men
ever find rest.
- * * *
- 3 Step forward, you,
you sons of sorcery,
brood born of whores and of
adulterers;
- 4 at whom are you jeering,
at whom are you sneering,
putting your tongues out?
What are you but apostates,
a disloyal brood,
- 5 inflaming your passions at an
oak,
under a green tree,
- and sacrificing children in the
glen,
between the rocky cliffs?
You choose the slippery gods of 6
the glen,
you settle to have them!
To them you pour out your liba-
tions
and offer cereals!
[[Am I to leave all that un-
punished?]]
- You spread your couch 7
high on a lofty hill,
and thither you went up
to sacrifice.
You set up your foul symbol too 8
behind the door-posts and the
door;
before it you would strip and lie,
embraced in bed,
buying embrace upon embrace,
from men for hire,
as the foul symbol stirred
your foul desire.
For Molek you perfumed your- 9
self,
with scent on scent;
you made your messengers go
far,
even to the gods below.
- You wearied yourselves out, 10
but never would give up;
your strength revived,
you would not cease,
you went on fearlessly, 11
in faithlessness,
you gave no thought to me,
in your indifference.
Is it not so? I said no word,
I hid my face from you,
and on you went,
fearing me not.
But I will expose your doings, 12
this 'religion' of yours!
Your loathsome idols, when you 13
cry,
will bring you neither help
nor gain;
the wind shall whirl them all
away,
a breath shall blow them off.

- But they who trust in me shall
hold the land
and own my sacred hills.
* * *
- 14 Bank up a causeway, clear a
path,
remove stones from my people's way.
- 15 For he who is high and uplifted,
the Majestic One,
he who sits enthroned for
ever, says:
I sit on high, enthroned, the
Majestic One,
and I am with the crushed
and humbled soul,
to revive the spirit of the
humble,
and to put heart into the
crushed.
- 16 I will not afflict for ever,
I will not be always wroth,
for then man's spirit would give
way before me,
the very souls that I had
made.
- 17 Their sins have made me angry
for a while,
I struck them in my wrath
and turned away;
and they went on, wilful, re-
bellious.
- 18 I marked them," the Eternal
says.
"But now I heal them, I will
give them rest,
and recompense them with all
consolation,
- 19 till I make their mourners loud
in thanks,
when far and near alike fare
prosperously.
- 20 Ungodly men are like the rest-
less sea,
that never can be still,
whose waters throw up dirt and
mire;
- 21 no prosperous peace for the
ungodly," says my God.
- 58 "Cry out, spare not your voice,
raise it loud as a trumpet,
and let my people hear their sins,
let Jacob's household hear
their guilt.
- Daily indeed they turn to me, 2
it is their joy to learn my
rites,
as any nation might that held
religion,
true to the orders of its God!
- They ask me to direct them, 3
they delight in worship,
they ask me why I never mark
their fasts,
nor pay heed to their pen-
ances!
- Why, on fast days you find time
for your business,
you go collecting debts!
Fasting makes you fretful, quar- 4
relsome,
till you strike ungodly blows.
- Fasting like yours to-day 5
will never bear your prayers
on high.
Would I choose such a fast,
such penances?
- To droop your head like a bul-
rush,
to lie in sackcloth and ashes—
is that what you call 'fasting,'
a day the Eternal would
approve?
- Is not this my chosen fast, 6
the Lord, the Eternal, asks,
to loosen all that fetters men
unfairly,
and to relax its grip,
to free poor debtors from their
bonds,
and break what binds them?
- It is to share your food with 7
hungry men,
and take the homeless to your
home,

- to clothe the naked when you
see them,
and never turn from any
fellow-creature.
- 8 Then shall light dawn for you,
with healing for your wounds;
you shall advance, your good-
ness in the van,
and the Eternal's glory as
your rear-guard;
- 9 the Eternal will answer when
you call,
and, when you cry, say, 'Here
am I!'
- If you will do away with all
oppression,
with open scorn and words of
malice,
- 10 if you bestow your bread upon
the hungry,
and relieve men in misery,
then light shall dawn for you in
darkness,
your dull hour shall be bright
as noon,
- 11 and evermore shall the Eternal
guide you,
and guard you without fail;
he will refresh you in dry places,
and renew your strength,
till you are like a watered gar-
den,
like an oasis with a steadfast
spring.
- 12 Your sons shall build once more
the ancient ruins,
and old foundations you shall
raise again;
you shall be called the repairer
of ruins,
the restorer of wrecked homes.
- * * *
- 13 If you refrain from doing your
own business
upon the sabbath, on my
sacred day,
and hold the sabbath a de-
light,
and the Eternal's sacred day
an honour,
not following your own wonted
round,
not doing business, and not
talking idly,
then you shall have delight in 14
the Eternal's favour,
for he will let you hold the
land in triumph,
enjoying your father Jacob's
heritage:
so the Eternal himself prom-
ises."
- * * *
- The Eternal's hand is not too 59
short to save,
the Eternal's ear is not too
dull to hear!
It is your own iniquities that 2
interfere
between your God and you;
your sins have made him veil
his face from you,
until he will not listen.
For your hands are stained with 3
blood,
your fingers stained with
crime;
lies fall from your lips,
your tongues are muttering
malice;
in court no one sues honestly, 4
no plea is just;
pretense and falsehood you
rely on,
big with mischief, you bear
mischief.
Intriguers, they hatch basilisk's 5
eggs,
and weave a spider's web;
eat their eggs, and you die,
crush one, out crawls a viper!
What they weave covers no 6
one,
what they concoct clothes no
one;
'tis violence they have in
hand.

- 7 Their feet run fast to crime,
they hurry to murder innocent men;
their thoughts are thoughts of mischief,
rapine and ruin are the track they follow;
- 8 they care not for what leads to bliss,
their paths are void of justice;
they take a crooked course,
where bliss is all unknown.
- 9 So we are far from having our wrongs righted,
we come by no redress;
we look for light, but all is dark,
we look for gleams, and walk in gloom;
- 10 we grope, like a blind man along the wall,
we feel our way, like sightless men;
at noon we stumble, as in twilight,
we live in darkness like the dead.
- 11 We are all moaning like a bear,
mourning low like doves;
we long to be righted, all in vain,
no rescue is in sight for us.
- 12 For our transgressions before thee are many,
and our sins testify against us,
transgressions we have ever in our minds,
sins we know well—
- 13 rebellions, treason against the Eternal,
deserting from our God,
talking perversely and defiantly,
telling lies from our heart.
- 14 Justice has to turn away defeated,
right is forced to hold aloof,
for truth in our assemblies has no footing,
honesty cannot enter there;
- truth is never to be seen,
and moral sense has left the town.
- The Eternal saw this and was angry,
that no justice could be seen.
When he saw, and seeing wondered,
there was none to intervene,
then he put forth his own power,
sustained by his own passion:
he put on might as armour,
and victory as a helmet,
and vengeance as his clothing,
and zeal to be his mantle.
- In strict requital he repays his foes
with fury and his enemies with shame,
till in the far west men have awe of the Eternal,
and in the east they see his brilliant deeds;
for his vengeance pours out like a pent-up stream,
driven by a blast of wind,
but to Sion he comes for deliverance,
to free Jacob from its rebels.
- [[As for me, the Eternal declares this is my compact with them: "My spirit which rests upon you, and the words I have put into your lips, shall never depart from your lips, nor from the lips of your descendants, nor from the lips of their descendants," the Eternal declares, "from henceforth and for ever."]]
- * * *
- Arise, be glad, your light is dawning,
the Eternal's splendour rises upon you.
Though darkness covers all the earth,
and a black cloud shrouds the nations,

- yet the Eternal shines out upon
you,
his splendour on you gleams,
3 till nations gather to your light
and kings to your bright
beams.
- 4 Look round you, look!
How they are flocking in,
your sons from far away,
your daughters carried on the
arm!
- 5 With radiant face you see them,
your heart a-thrill and throb-
bing;
for the rich sea-trade shall flow
to you,
and the wealth of nations
shall be yours.
- 6 Camels stream across your land,
from Midian and Ephah,
trains of camels all from Shē-
ba—
a testimony to the Eternal's
fame!
- 7 All Kedar's flocks gather to you,
Nebaioth's rams shall serve
your need—
a sacrifice I welcome on my
altar
within my house of prayer so
fair.
- 8 Who are these flying like a
cloud,
like doves into their cotes?
- 9 'Tis ships that gather her to
me,
ships of Tartessus in the van,
to bring your sons from far
away,
with all their silver and their
gold,
back to where the Eternal your
God dwells,
to Israel's Majesty who has
honoured you.
- 10 Foreigners shall rebuild your
walls,
their kings shall do you
service;
for though in wrath I struck you
down,
I show you pity now and
favour.
Ever shall your gates lie open, 11
never shut by day or night,
to let the nations pour their
wealth in,
headed by their kings.
[[For any nation or dynasty 12
that will not serve you shall
perish; such nations shall be
laid utterly waste.]]
- Lebânôn's glorious cedars shall 13
be yours,
with pines and planes and
cypresses,
that my sanctuary may be
adorned,
that my footstool may be
splendid.
- The sons of those who scorned 14
and humbled you
shall come to you, all bending
low,
and hail you as "The Eternal's
own city,
the Sion of Israel's Majesty."
- As once you lay forsaken, 15
shunned and hated,
so now I make you an eternal
pride,
a joy to all ages.
You shall suck milk from the 16
nations,
suck even royal breasts;
so shall you learn I the Eternal
am your saviour,
and Jacob's Hero your de-
liverer.
- Instead of bronze I will bring 17
gold to you,
silver instead of iron.
I will appoint Peace as your
governor,
and Justice as your ruler;

- 18 no sound of violence shall be in
your land,
nor ruin nor rapine within
your borders;
your ramparts you shall name
Protection,
and your gates Renown.
- 19 The sun shall no more be your
light by day,
nor shall the moon shed light
on you,
but the Eternal shall be your
unending light,
your God shall be your splen-
dour.
- 20 Your sun shall never set,
your moon shall never wane,
for the Eternal shall be your
unending light,
and mourning days shall
never come again.
- 21 All your people shall be pious,
they shall always hold the
land,
planted there by the Eternal's
hand,
his own work, for his own
glory;
- 22 the smallest sept becomes a
clan,
the least grows to a mighty
nation.
- I, the Eternal, who have prom-
ised this,
will hasten its due consumma-
tion."
- * * *
- 61 The Lord Eternal, he inspires
me,
for the Eternal has consecrated
me,
and sent me with good news for
wretched men,
to heal the broken-hearted,
to tell prisoners they are free,
to tell captives they are re-
leased,
- 2 to proclaim a year of the Eter-
nal's favour,
- a day of our God's vengeance,
to console all mourners,
to give them coronals for 3
coronachs,
oil of joy for mourning robes,
praise for plaintiveness;
they shall be sturdy oaks of
goodness,
planted by the Eternal in his
honour.
- They shall rebuild ancient ruins, 4
restoring what has long lain
desolate;
repairing ruined towns,
that have lain waste for ages.
- The foreigner shall serve you as 5
a herdsman,
the alien shall work your
fields and vineyards;
but you shall be called the Eter- 6
nal's priests,
your sons shall be the min-
isters of our God;
you shall enjoy the wealth of
nations,
and deck yourselves out in
their splendour.
- They suffered shame in double 7
measure,
abuse and insult were their
lot;
so now in their own land they
shall get double,
theirs is a lasting joy.
- For I am the Eternal, I love 8
justice,
iniquitous harrying I hate;
so I will recompense them duly,
and make with them a com-
pact that shall last;
their sons shall be known in 9
every place,
their offspring famous among
nations,
till all who see them own they
are the race
that the Eternal blesses.
- For as the earth brings forth its 11
growth,
as seed springs up in gardens,

- so before all the world will the
Lord Eternal
bring forth their triumph
and renown.
- 62 For Sion's sake I will not hold
my peace,
for Jerusalem's sake I will
never rest,
till her triumph shines out
brilliant,
and her deliverance like a
blazing torch,
- 2 so that the very nations see
your triumph,
and every king beholds your
splendour.
You shall be called by a name
that is new,
a name to be fixed by the
Eternal.
- 3 A fair crown shall you be, in the
Eternal's hand,
a royal diadem carried by
your God.
- 4 "Forsaken" shall no longer be
your name,
your land shall no more be
called "Desolate";
you shall be "my Delight,"
your land shall be "my wed-
ded wife,"
for the Eternal takes delight in
you,
and your land shall again be
married.
- 5 As a young man weds a maiden,
so your Founder marries you,
and as a bridegroom thrills to
his bride,
so shall your God thrill to
you.
- 6 I have set sentinels upon your
walls,
Jerusalem,
who never hold their peace
by day or night.
Remembrancers of the Eternal,
never rest,
- never let the Eternal rest, 7
till it is done,
until he makes Jerusalem
renowned on earth.
- The Eternal has sworn by his 8
right hand,
by his strong arm,
"Never again will I allow your
foes
to eat your corn,
never again shall foreigners
drink the wine
that you have worked to grow;
those who have harvested the 9
crop shall eat it,
praising the Eternal,
those who have gathered grapes
shall quaff the wine
within my sacred shrine."
- Pass through the gates, pass out 10
to make a path
for the returning exiles,
bank up a causeway,
clear out the stones;
signal to the nations
to . . .
- To the very ends of earth 11
the Eternal has proclaimed
this:
"Tell the citizens of Sion
their deliverer is coming,
bringing his reward with him,
bringing his recompense;
their name shall be 'The sacred 12
People,'
'The Redeemed of the Eter-
nal.'"
- You shall be then a city much
sought after,
no forsaken city.
"Loud shall be my joy in the 61
Eternal, 10
in my God will I rejoice;
he has clothed me with victory,
arrayed me in a robe of
triumph,
like a bridegroom he bestows a
tiara,

and gives me jewels like a
bride."

* * *

- 63 Who comes here, all crimsoned,
his robes redder than the
vintage?

Who is it, arrayed in splendour,
striding in his strength,
radiant with victory,
a mighty champion?

- 2 Why so red your robes,
stained red like a vintager's?

- 3 "All alone I trod the winepress,
for no nation lent me aid;
so I trod the foe in fury,
trampled them down in my
anger;
'twas their blood splashed my
robes,
till all my clothes are stained.

- 4 For I resolved upon a day of
vengeance;
the time to free my folk had
come.

- 5 I looked, but there was none to
help,

I was amazed that there was
none to aid;

so my own power gained me the
victory,

it was my passion bore me on,

- 6 as I trampled the nations in my
wrath

and smashed them in my
fury,

spilling their blood upon the
earth,

and . . . "

* * *

- 7 I would tell over the Eternal's
famous deeds,

praising his acts of love,

after all the Eternal has done
for us,

the Eternal so rich in care
for us,

after all his wealth of love

and his compassion,

- 8 when he said, "Surely they are
my own people,

sons that will never play me
false";

and so he proved himself their
saviour
in all their adversity.

9

It was no envoy and no angel,
'twas his own Presence saved
them;

he rescued them himself

in love and pity,

he lifted them and carried them
all through the days of old.

But they, they thwarted him, 10
they pained his sacred spirit,
and so he turned to be their
foe,

he fought himself against
them.

Then they recalled the days of 11
old.

the years gone by,

"Ah, where is he," they cried,
"who at the sea

granted a shepherd to his
flock,

inspiring him

with his own sacred spirit?

Ah, where is he who with his 12
glorious power

gave strength to Moses,

who parted the waters in front
of his folk,

to win himself renown,

who led them through the 13
ocean-depths

with never a stumble,

like horses on the plain,

like cattle moving to an open 14
dale?

He led his people safe like sheep,
the Spirit of the Eternal

guided them;

so was it thou didst lead thy
people,

to win thyself renown and
glory."

Look down from heaven, look 15
out

from thy fair, sacred palace.

- Where are thy jealous care, thy
prowess,
thy yearning and thy pity?
- 16 Though Abraham may ignore
us,
though Israel regard us not,
thou, O Eternal One, thou art
our Father,
our deliverer from of old.
- 17 Why leave us to wander from
thy ways, O thou Eternal?
Why harden our hearts till
they are godless?
Cease, for thy servant's sake,
for the sake of thine own
clans.
- 18 Why should ungodly men scoff
at thy sanctuary?
Why should our foes profane
thy shrine?
- 19 We fare like those who never
knew thy rule,
whom thou hast never
claimed as thine.
- 64 Oh for the heavens to rend, oh
for thee to descend,
till the very mountains shake
before thee,
2 like mere brushwood set ablaze,
like water bubbling under
fire,
to let thy foes know what thou
art,
till the world trembles at thy
presence,
3 at thy dread actions, far be-
yond our dreams,
4 far beyond all that men have
heard of!
- No ear has ever heard,
no eye has ever seen,
the mighty deeds that thou
wilt do
for those who look to thee.
- 5 Oh for thy favour to those who
do right,
who call to mind thine or-
ders!
- But thou hast been wroth at
our sins,
wroth at our breach of faith.
- We have become like men 6
unclean,
our goodness is a filthy rag,
we fade like leaves,
and our guilt sweeps us off;
none calls to thee, 7
none rouses himself to take
hold of thee;
for thou hast turned thy face
from us,
and left us to our guilt.
- Ah now, thou art our Father, O 8
Eternal.
thine own hands have made
us all;
we are but clay,
thou art the potter.
O thou Eternal, be not furious 9
with us,
remember not our guilt for
ever;
Oh look down on us, we be-
seech thee,
for we are all thy people.
Thy sacred towns are but a 10
desert,
Jerusalem is accursed;
our sacred house of God, so 11
fair,
in which our fathers sang thy
praise,
the flames have burned it to the
ground,
and all we loved lies ruined.
Canst thou restrain thyself at 12
this, Eternal?
Wilt thou be silent still and
press us sore?
* * *
- "Ready was I to answer men 65
who never asked me,
ready to be found by men
who never sought me.
I cried out, 'Here am I,'
to folk who never called to
me.

- 2 I have stretched my hands, all
day, to unruly rebels,
who lead a life corrupt,
pleasing themselves,
- 3 a people who provoke me to
my face continually,
by sacrificing in their groves,
and burning incense under the
white poplars—
- 4 people who sit on graves
and pass the night in vaults,
who eat the flesh of swine
and cook them carrion broth;
- 5 who say, 'Keep far away from
me,
lest I make you tabu'!
Such men are like smoke from
a blaze,
that irritates me all the day.
- 6 'Tis all recorded before me,
and I will not be silent till I
punish
- 7 both their guilt and their
fathers',
the Eternal declares.
- "Men who burn incense on the
heights,
and insult me on hill-tops!—
I will first weigh what they
deserve,
then let them have their pun-
ishment."
- 8 This is the Eternal's word:
"When a bunch of grapes holds
some good wine,
men say, 'Destroy it not, it
holds a blessing';
so for my servants' sake
I will not destroy the whole
people.
- 9 Jacob shall yield me some folk,
Judah shall yield me some
heirs to my hills;
those whom I choose shall own
the land,
and in it shall my servants
dwell.
- 10 Sharon shall be pasture for
their flocks,
and cattle couch in Achor's
glen.
- But ye who have forsaken the 11
Eternal,
ye who ignore his sacred
hill,
spreading tables to Good Luck,
pouring libations to Fate,
I make the sword your fate, 12
to slay and slaughter every
one of you;
for when I called you would not
answer,
you would not listen when I
spoke,
you did things evil in my sight,
and chose what I abhorred."
- This therefore is the Eternal's 13
decree:
"Behold, my servants shall
have food,
you shall be hungry;
behold, my servants shall have
drink,
you shall be thirsty;
behold, my servants shall have
joy,
you shall have shame;
behold, my servants shall exult 14
for joy of heart,
but you shall cry for sorrow of
heart
and moan in misery.
- My chosen ones shall use the 15
name you leave,
in uttering a curse.
Far other shall the name be
that my servants bear!
- He who prays for blessing in the 16
land,
now invokes the faithful God;
he who takes an oath within the
land
now swears by the faithful
God.
For I ignore the troubles of the
past,
I shut mine eyes to them;

- 17 lo, I create new heavens
and a new earth!
The past shall be forgotten,
and never come to mind;
- 18 men shall rejoice for ever
in what I now create;
Jerusalem I create to be a joy,
her people a delight.
- 19 Over Jerusalem will I rejoice,
I will exult in my people.
No sound of tears, no voice of
crying,
shall ever be heard in her;
- 20 no babe shall die there any more
in infancy,
nor any old man who has not
lived out
his years of life;
he who dies youngest lives
a hundred years;
anyone dying under a hundred
years
must be accursed by God.
- 21 They shall build houses and in-
habit them,
they shall plant vineyards
and enjoy the fruit;
- 22 the homes they build, others
shall not inhabit,
what they plant, other men
shall not enjoy.
My people shall live long as
lives a tree,
long shall my chosen folk
enjoy their earnings;
- 23 they shall not work in vain,
nor rear their children to die
suddenly,
for they are a race whom the
Eternal blesses,
and with them shall their
children live.
- 24 Ere ever they call to me, I
answer,
and while they speak I hear.
- 25 Wolves and lambs shall browse
together,
lions shall eat straw like
oxen;
- none shall injure, none shall kill,
says the Eternal, on my sa-
cred hill.
- Heaven is my throne, says the 66
Eternal,
my footstool is the earth.
Where would you build a house
for me,
where would you rear me a
home?
- Such buildings I have made 2
myself already,
they are my own, says the
Eternal.
- What I care for are humble,
broken creatures,
who stand in awe of all I say.
- Oxen some sacrifice and also 3
human lives,
they offer lambs and also dogs
in worship,
oblations due and swine's blood
in their rites,
incense, and yet they rever-
ence an idol!
- Such are the practices they
choose,
delighting in abominable wor-
ship;
so I choose penalties for them, 4
and what they dread I bring
on them.
- For when I called, none of them
answered,
none of them listened when I
spoke;
they did things evil in my sight,
and chose what I abhorred."
- But ye who stand in awe of the 5
Eternal's word,
listen to what he promises:
"Your kinsmen, who hate you
for your faith in me,
sneer thus, 'Let the Eternal
show his might,

that we may see this joy of
yours!"
they shall be taken aback!

6 Hark! the city is in uproar!
It is coming from the temple!
'Tis the Eternal dealing vengeance
to the full upon his foes!

7 Ere ever Sion travailed,
she gave birth;
ere ever her pangs came,
she bore a son!

8 Whoever heard of such a thing?
whoever saw the like?
Did ever land bring forth its
people
in a single day?
Was ever any nation born
thus all at once?
Yet Sion had no sooner tra-
vailed,
than she brought her sons to
birth.

9 But why should I not help her
to bring forth
what I bring to the birth? says
the Eternal.

Why should I close the womb,
when I
have brought the babe to
birth? so says your God.

10 Rejoice, Jerusalem; exult in
her,
all ye that love her;
rejoice, rejoice with her, all ye
who once mourned over her;

11 that you may suck and satisfy
yourselves
with her rich consolations,
that you may drain, to your
delight,
her ample mother-bosom."

12 For this is the Eternal's word:
"I send her in full flood pros-
perity,
the wealth of nations flowing
into her;

your children shall be carried in
the arms,
and dandled on the knees,
and in Jerusalem I will com- 13
fort you,
as mothers comfort sons."

When you see this, your heart 14
shall rejoice,
your health shall flourish
like fresh grass,
at sight of the Eternal's favour
to his servants,
and of his wrath against his
foes.

For the Eternal comes like fire, 15
with chariots like the whirl-
wind,
to deal his anger out in scorching
heat,
the blaze of his rebuke.

The Eternal will pass sentence 16
on the world
with fire and sword.

Any who consecrate and cleanse 17
themselves

to enter groves for ritual
dances,
any who eat the flesh of swine,
of mice and crawling vermin,
their rites and their devices 18
shall perish—by the Eternal's
order.

"The hour is near for summon-
ing
all nations and all races,
to witness my display of might,
a signal deed of dread. 19

Those who survive my judg-
ment I will send
to far-off shores,
to men who have not heard my
name,
nor ever seen my power.

So shall my power be told
among the nations,
and they shall bring your 20
kinsmen home,
back to my sacred hill, back to
Jerusalem,

as their due offering to the
Eternal,
like offerings brought in vessels
clean
by Israelites to the Eternal's
temple.
21 Some of these kinsmen I will
make
Levitical priests, says the
Eternal.
22 For as the heavens and earth I
make anew
shall last before me, the Eternal
promises,

so shall your name and race
remain."

[[From new moon to new 23
moon and from sabbath to sab-
bath men shall all come to offer
worship in my presence, says
the Eternal; and then they 24
shall go outside to gloat over
the corpses of the apostates, for
the worms in the corpses never
die, and the fire that burns them
is never extinguished, and they
shall be a disgust to all men.]]

JEREMIAH

- 1 The story of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, belonging to the priests at Anáthoth in the district of Benjamin; to whom the word of the Eternal came during the reign of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. [[It continued to come during the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah, king of Judah, when Jerusalem went into exile in the fifth month of that year.]]
- 4 This word from the Eternal came to me:
- 5 "Before I formed you in the womb, I chose you; ere ever you were born, I set you apart; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."
- 6 Then I said, "Ah, but, O Lord Eternal, I cannot speak, I am too young!"
- 7 But the Eternal said to me, "Say not, you are too young; to whomsoever I send you shall you go, and whatever I command you, shall you speak."
- 8 Be not afraid at the sight of them, for I am with you to succor you." The Eternal said it. And then the Eternal put out his hand to touch my mouth: the Eternal said to me, "There! I have put my words into your mouth; here and now I give you authority over nations and kingdoms, to tear up, to break down, to shatter, to pull down, to build up and to plant."
- 11 This word from the Eternal came to me: "Jeremiah, what do you see?" I said, "The shoot of a wake-tree." The Eternal said to me, "You have seen right; for I am wakeful over my word, to carry it out."
- The word of the Eternal came to me again, saying, "What do you see?" I said, "A boiling cauldron, fanned from the north." Then the Eternal said to me, "From the north is bane being blown out on all the inhabitants of the land. For I am summoning all the empires of the north; they shall come and erect their tribunals each at the entry to Jerusalem and opposite all its walls round about and opposite all the towns of Judah; by them will I pass sentence on all the wickedness of those who forsake me to offer sacrifice to other gods and worship what their own hands made. As for you, brace yourself up, stand up and tell them all that I command you; do not be scared at them, lest I scare you at the sight of them. I—I fortify you this day like a town, a bronze wall, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, the authorities, the priests and the laity; they shall attack you, but they shall not overcome you, for I am with you (the Eternal promises) to succor you."
- The word of the Eternal came to me, bidding me go and proclaim this message from the Eternal in the hearing of Jerusalem: "Remember your early devotion, the love of your bridal days, how through the wolds you followed me, through lands unsown; Israel was set apart for the Eternal, so dear to him, so sacred,

- that her spoilers were all punished;
ill befell them.”
- 4 Listen to the Eternal's word,
O house of Jacob and all families of the house of Israel:
- 5 What did your fathers find wrong in me that they went far from me,
went after empty idols and became empty themselves?
- 6 They never said, 'Where is the Eternal, who brought us up from Egypt's land,
who led us through the desert, through a land of steppes and holes,
through a land of drought and darkness deep,
a land where no one travels, no one dwells?'
- 7 Yes, and I brought you to a garden-land, to eat the fruit and good things of it;
but, when you entered, you befouled my land and made my heritage abominable—
- 8 the priests never asked, 'Where is the Eternal?'
those who handled the law cared nothing for me,
the rulers rebelled against me,
the prophets prophesied by Baal and sought useless idols.
- 9 So I must still indict you, the Eternal says,
and indict your children's children;
- 10 cross to Cyprus and the west,
and see,
send east to the Arabs, and inquire—
see if there ever was the like of this;
- 11 has any nation ever changed its gods (gods that are no gods)?
But my people have changed their
Glorify for a useless thing!
- Well may the heavens be appalled and shudder;
for my people have done double wrong,
they have forsaken me, the reservoir of fresh water,
and hewn out cisterns for themselves,
leaky cisterns that can hold no water!
- Is Israel a defenceless serf,
a home-born slave,
that he should be plundered,
and his towns laid waste?
- Young lions roar at him,
growling aloud;
they lay his land desolate,
empty of inhabitants;
- the men of Memphis and Daphne
strip you to be slaves;
have you not brought this on yourself,
by abandoning your God?
- What right had you to go to Egypt
to drink from the Nile?
what right had you to go to Assyria,
to drink from the Euphrates?
- Your own wickedness will punish you,
your apostasy will chastise you.
See for yourself how sore it is for you
to abandon me,
to have no reverence for me,
says the Lord, the Lord of hosts.
- Long ago you broke your yoke
and snapped your harness,
you said, 'I will not serve thee';
and on every height,
under every green tree,
you wantoned like a harlot.

- 21 Yet I had planted you a noble vine,
of right good stock.
And what a foul thing you have turned,
a vine degenerate!
- 22 You may wash yourself with lye
and plenty soap,
but I see your sin of the deepest dye,
says the Lord Eternal.
- 23 How dare you say, 'I am not stained,
I have not sought the Baals'?
Look at your life in the Valley,
think how you have carried on:
you are a swift young camel,
that doubles on her tracks,
- 24 a heifer running wild in the wold,
heated with passion,
snuffing the breeze, in the rutting season—
who can control her?
No male need trouble to search for her;
all can find her at mating-time.
- 25 Do not run your feet bare,
your throat dry.
But 'It is no use to talk;
I am in love with foreign gods,' you cry,
'and after them I hie.'
- 26 Like a thief caught and confounded,
so shall Israel's house be confounded,
- 27 calling a pole 'my father,'
calling a pillar 'my mother'!
- They have turned their backs to me,
and not their faces;
and yet they cry, when trouble comes,
'Arise and save us'!
- 28 But where are your gods,
the gods you made for yourself?
Let them arise to save you,
if they can, in trouble!
- (for you have as many gods as towns, O Judah;
and as the streets are in Jerusalem,
so sacrifices abound to Baal.)
- Then why upbraid me, 29
when you are godless, all,
when you are rebels, all?—
the Eternal protests.
- In vain I struck your citizens, 30
they would not be corrected;
the sword devoured your prophets
like a lion, a man-eater,
but fear you would not, 31
would not heed the word of the Eternal.
- Have I been a desert to Israel,
or a land of gloom?
Then why do my people say,
'We please ourselves,
we will not come to thee'?
- Can a girl forget her trinkets, 32
or a bride her sash?
And yet my people have forgotten me,
days without number!
- Your course you have directed 33
to intrigues of love,
and trained yourself to follow evil paths;
- your hands are stained 34
with innocent blood;
and for all this
I will arraign you.
- Yet you say, 'I am innocent; 35
surely his anger is over.'
I will condemn you for saying,
'I have not sinned.'

- 36 Why do you cheapen yourself
by shifting your course?
You will find Egypt fail you,
as Assyria did;
- 37 you will have to leave Egypt
also,
hands clasped on head for
shame;
for the Eternal has rejected
those you rely on,
and nothing will you gain by
them.
- 3 . . . saying, if any man di-
vorce his wife,
and she leaves him,
if she belongs to another man,
can she come back to him?
Would not a woman like that
be wholly polluted?
And you, who have wanted
with many a lover,
you would come back to
me!—
says the Eternal.
- 2 Look up at the bare heights,
see!
Where have not men lain with
you?
You sat awaiting lovers by the
roadside,
like a nomad in the desert;
you have polluted the land
with your harlotry and vice;
- 3 your host of lovers
has been a snare to you,
and yet you were as brazen as a
harlot,
you would not blush for it.
- 4 And now you begin to call me,
'Dear bridegroom of my
youth'!
- 5 'He will not keep it up,' you say,
'he will not be angry for ever!'
So you say, but what you do
Is vilest of the vile.
- 6 [[During the reign of king
Josiah, the Eternal said to me,
"Have you seen what turncoat

Israel has done, going up every
height, going under every green
tree, and playing the harlot
there? I thought, after all that, 7
she would surely turn back to
me. But she did not turn back,
and although her faithless sister
Judah saw plainly that, as Israel 8
had committed adultery, I had
divorced her and handed her a
bill of divorce, yet Judah her
faithless sister was not afraid;
she too went and played the
harlot. The light-hearted wan- 9
ton, she polluted the land and
committed adultery with stones
and trees! Yet, for all that, this 10
faithless Judah has not turned
back to me with her whole heart,
but insincerely." So the Eter- 11
nal said to me, "Turncoat Israel
has proved herself better than
faithless Judah. Go and pro- 12
claim this northward; say,
"Turn again, turncoat Israel,
turn to me,
the Eternal pleads;
I will not frown on you, for I am
merciful,
I will not keep it up against
you.
Only acknowledge your guilt, 13
confess
you have rebelled against the
Eternal, your own God,
and lavished love on foreign gods
under all green trees,
and refused to listen to my
voice, says the Eternal.'"]
[[["Turn back, O turncoat 14
children, says the Eternal, for it
is I who am your lord; and I will
take one or two of you, one from
a town here, two from a clan
there, and bring you to Sion,
where I will give you rulers after 15
my own heart who shall furnish
you with knowledge and with
sense. In after days, when you 16
become numerous and fruitful
in the land, says the Eternal,

- men shall no longer speak of
'the ark of the Eternal's com-
pact'; that shall never enter
their minds, they shall not
remember it, they shall never
miss it, and it shall never be
17 re-made. They shall call Jeru-
salem then 'the throne of the
Eternal'; and all nations shall
gather to it, living no longer by
the stubbornness of their evil
18 minds. In those days the house
of Judah shall join the house of
Israel, and they shall come out
of the north-land together to
the land that I gave as a heritage
to your fathers."]]
- 19 I thought that I would treat
you like a son,
and give you a delightful land,
the fairest heritage of any
nation.
I thought that you would call
me Father,
and never turn away from
me.
- 20 But as a wife betrays her hus-
band for her lover,
so you have betrayed me,
O house of Israel—says the
Eternal.
- 21 Hark, I hear them on the bare
heights,
Israel beseeching and be-
wailing;
for they have wilfully gone
astray,
ignoring the Eternal One,
their God.
- 22 Turn back, you turncoat chil-
dren,
and I will heal your hurt.
"Here we come, we come to
thee,
for thou art our own God.
- 23 These hills are no help,
these orgies on the mountains!
Only in the Eternal One, our
God,
lies any help for Israel.
- Baal-worship has always de- 24
voured
the fruit of our fathers' toil,
their flocks and herds,
their sons and daughters.
Let us then lie down in our 25
shame,
let our dishonour cover us;
for we have sinned against our
God,
both we and our fathers,
from our youth till now,
and never have we listened
to the voice of our own
God."
- [[If you will turn back, O Israel, 4
if you will turn to me,
if you will put away your idols
vile
and never stray from my
sight,
if you will swear, "As the Eter- 2
nal lives!"
from lives just, honest, right,
then shall the nations seek their
bliss through him,
and glory in him.]]
- Here is the word of the Eternal 3
for the men of Judah and the
citizens of Jerusalem:
"Break up your fallow ground,
never sow among thorns;
when you devote yourselves 4
to the Eternal,
devote your hearts;
lest my fury blaze and burn
like fire,
past quenching, for your evil
deeds."
- * * *
- Utter this in Judah and Jeru- 5
salem,
proclaim it and announce it,
blow the trumpet through the
land,
shout this aloud:
"Let all gather and escape
to the fortified towns!"
Hoist the signal for Sion;
quick, run for safety!

- For calamity comes from the north,
and dire disaster.
- 7 The lion is up from his lair,
the havoc of nations;
he has broken loose, he strides ahead
to harry the earth!
- 8 Gird on sackcloth then,
lament and wail;
for it will not turn from us,
the Eternal's fierce anger.
- 9 [[That day, says the Eternal,
the courage of kings and
chiefs will fail,
the priests shall be appalled,
and the prophets aghast;
- 10 "Ah, Lord Eternal," they will cry,
"thou hast deceived this people utterly!
Thou didst promise peace to them,
and here the sword cuts to the very soul!"
- 11 At that time this people and
Jerusalem shall be told:
"A hot blast blows from the desert
on my country-folk,
- 12 no breeze to winnow and to cleanse,
but a wild, tearing wind;
for now I sentence them.]]
- 13 The foe comes up like driving clouds,
his chariots like a hurricane,
his horses swifter than a vulture's swoop—" woe betide us! we are undone!
- 15 Hark, a message from Dan,
bad news from the hills of Ephraim!
- 16 Proclaim the warning in Jerusalem:
"Leopards are leaping
from a far land,
leaping and growling
at the townships of Judah,
- 17 lurking out there in the fields,
round her on every side;
for she has defied me,
says the Lord of hosts."
- You have brought it all upon 18
yourself
by the way you lived;
your evil drives it to your heart,
this bitter, moral stroke.
- Wash your heart clean of evil, 14
to be saved, Jerusalem.
How long are wicked plans
to lodge with you?
- O my heart, my heart! it 19
writhes!
Oh how it throbs!
My soul is moaning!
I cannot hold my peace,
for I hear the blare of trumpets
and the battle-cry.
- Crash upon crash!— 20
the whole country is down,
our tents are laid low in a second,
our curtains torn down in a second!
- How long must I see war-signals 21
and hear trumpet-blasts?
My people are senseless, 22
they care not for the Eternal;
dolts of a household,
devoid of understanding,
they know how to do wrong,
but they have no mind to do right.
- I look out on earth—lo, all is 23
chaos,
I look at heaven—its light is gone,
- I look out on the mountains— 24
they are reeling,
and all the hills are swaying!
- I look out—lo, no man is to be 25
seen,
the very birds have flown!
- I look out—lo, the corn-land 26
lies a desert,
the towns all razed by the
Eternal's rage.

- 27 For this is what the Eternal has decreed:
 "The land shall all be desolate;
 28 earth shall mourn over it,
 and heaven above wear black,
 but I will not repent of my resolve,
 and from my purpose I will not go back.
- 29 At the noise of the horsemen and archers,
 the land is all in flight,
 men taking cover within woods and caves,
 and clambering the rocks;
 every township is abandoned,
 not one soul is left.
- 30 You ruined creature, what will you do?
 Array yourself in scarlet?
 Deck yourself out in gold, and paint your eyes?—
 you beautify yourself in vain!
 Your paramours despise you,
 they are out for your life.
- 31 Hark! the scream of a woman in labour,
 her cry as she bears her first-born!—
 'tis the shriek of maiden Sion,
 panting, clutching for help,
 crying, 'Oh and alas! all is over,
 they are murdering me!'
- 5 Scour the streets of Jerusalem,
 search the squares and see
 if you can find a man of honest mind
 and of integrity.
- 2 They may swear, 'As the Eternal lives!'
 but the oath is perjury.
- 3 O thou Eternal, what thou lookest for
 is honesty, not falsehood.
 Thou hast struck them, but they smarted not,
 they would not learn;
- they hardened themselves like a flint,
 they would not turn.
- 'But these are the poor,' I said, 4
 'mere ignorant folk,
 who never learned the rules of the Eternal
 or the religion of their God.
 I will turn to the upper classes, 5
 I will talk to them;
 for they have learned the rules of the Eternal,
 and the religion of their God.'
 But they had flung off all restraints,
 and broken every bond.
- So a lion from the jungle shall 6
 slay them,
 a wolf from the steppes;
 a leopard shall prowl around their towns,
 till he who ventures out is torn in pieces;
 for they have sinned repeatedly,
 and lapsed over and again."
- "How can I pardon them?" 7
 the Eternal asks;
 "for they have abandoned me
 and sworn by gods that are no gods.
 I gave them their fill, and they turned to vice,
 they were at home in a harlot's house—
 pampered horses, lusty stallions, 8
 neighing each for his neighbour's wife!
 Must I not punish them for 9
 that?"
 the Eternal asks;
 "shall I not make such people pay for that?"
- Get in among her vines and 10
 ravage them!
 Strip off her branches—they are not the Eternal's!

- 11 For Israel's house and Judah's house
have been full faithless to him.
- 12 They have belied the Eternal,
crying, "He will do nothing!
No harm can come to us,
no suffering from war or famine.
- 13 The prophets are but windbags;
the Word is not with them!"
- 14 So the Eternal, God of hosts, declares,
"Since thus they talk,
I put my Word into your mouth,
Jeremiah,
to be a fire,
and I will make this people fuel
to be burned."
- 15 "I bring a nation on you from afar,
O house of Israel," says the Eternal;
"a nation that endures,
an ancient nation,
with a language that you know not,
and speech you cannot understand.
- 16 Their arrows deal death far and wide;
they are all fighting men.
- 17 They shall devour your harvest
and your food,
your flocks and herds;
they shall devour your grapes
and figs,
and sword in hand shall batter down
your vaunted forts, each
walled town."
- 18 [[Yet even then, the Eternal declares,
I will not make a clean end of you.
- 19 And when they ask, "Why
has the Eternal our God done
all this to us?" you shall tell them, "Just as you forsook me
to serve foreign gods in your own land, so you must serve foreigners in a land that is not your own."]]
- Proclaim this to the house of 20
Jacob,
announce it within Judah:
"Listen, you foolish, senseless 21
folk,
with eyes that see not,
with ears that hear not;
will you not fear me, says the 22
Eternal,
will you not tremble at my
presence?
I set the sands to bound the
deep,
a barrier no breakers shall
o'erleap;
the sea may toss, but it cannot
prevail;
the waves may roar, but they
cannot reach further.
Yet this folk is at heart restless, 23
rebellious;
they swerve aside, defiantly.
They never say to them- 24
selves,
'Come, let us fear the Eternal
our God,
who sends the rain in spring and
autumn due,
and brings our harvest in its
season true.'
It is your crimes that keep such 25
blessings back,
your sins that spoil your wel-
fare.
For rogues are to be found among 26
my folk,
who set their snares to trap
their fellows:
like cages filled with birds, 27
their houses are full of swin-
dling gains.
Thus they become great men 28
and prosperous,
grow stout and sleek;

- they go to any length in crime,
but make no move for justice;
they never champion an orphan's cause
or rally to a poor man's rights.
- 29 Must I not punish them for that?"
the Eternal asks;
"shall I not make such people
pay for that?"
- 30 A horrible thing, an appalling,
has happened in the land:
- 31 the prophets prophesy falsely,
the priests rule at their beck
and call,
and my people love to have it
so!
But what will you do, at the
end of it all?
- 6 Fly for safety, men of Benjamin,
fly from Jerusalem,
blow the trumpet in Tekoah,
light a beacon on Beth-hak-
khêrem;
for trouble is looming out of
the north,
aye, fell disaster.
- 2 Is it a meadow fair,
the highest slopes of Sion?
- 3 Yet shepherds grim are bring-
ing flocks,
and pitching tents around,
as though they owned the
ground.
- 4 "Open the campaign," they cry;
"come on, let us attack at
noon!"—
"Pity the day is declining,
the shadows are lengthen-
ing!"
- 5 "Come on, let us attack by
night,
and wreck her palaces!"
- 6 For these are their orders from
the Lord of hosts:
"Cut down the trees of the
country,
set siege-mounds up against
Jerusalem!"
- "Ah, the false city,
harbouring only oppression!
She keeps her evils fresh, 7
as a cistern keeps its water.
Sounds rise from her of outrage
and oppression;
I am always seeing wounds
and blows.
Take warning, O Jerusalem, 8
or I will break with you,
or I will lay you waste,
and leave you uninhabited.
Go over what is left 9
of Israel's vineyard,
scan her as a gardener scans
twig after twig;
is there a man whom I can 10
warn,
and make him listen?
No, this people's ears are
stopped,
they will not heed me.
Why, the Eternal's word is a dis-
gust to them,
and no delight.
- So I am pent up with my wrath, 11
weary of holding it in;
vent it I must, on children in the
street,
on gatherings of young men;
husband and wife shall be seized
together,
old folk and middle-aged.
Their houses shall be turned 12
over to strangers,
their wives along with their
lands.
For high and low alike are all 13
greedy for gain;
prophet and priest alike
are all deceitful,
treating the wounds of my 14
people
slightly and lightly,
saying 'All's well, all's well,'
when all is not well.
Are they ashamed at their 15
abominable deeds?
Not they! They know not
how to blush.

- Therefore they shall fall among
the fallen,
collapsing when I punish
them," says the Eternal.
- 16 "Stand at the cross-roads," the
Eternal said,
"and look for the old path.
ask for the good road and take
it,
so shall you be safe and
prosper."
- 17 But they said, "We will not
take it."
I posted sentinels for them,
I bade them listen to the
trumpet-blast;
they said, "We will not
listen."
- 18 Hear then, O heavens,
bear witness against them;
- 19 hear, O earth,
for I bring evil on this people,
the outcome of their apostasy,
since they would not heed my
words,
and my rules they rejected.
- 20 (What care I for incense,
that you bring from Shēba,
or for perfume fetched
from lands afar?
I will not accept your offerings,
I have no pleasure in your
sacrifices.)
- 21 Therefore—it is the Eternal's
word—
I lay stumbling-blocks before
this people;
fathers and sons shall both trip
over them,
neighbour and friend shall
perish.
- 22 Here is the Eternal's word:
"A people is coming
out of the north-land,
a power is stirring
from the far ends of earth!
- Bow and javelin they seize, 23
they are cruel, pitiless;
their din is like the roaring sea,
they ride on horses,
mustering like one man
to fight you, maiden Sion."
- "We have heard the news, 24
and our hands are limp,
panic has seized us,
pain like a woman's in tra-
vail."
- "Then venture not into the 25
country,
walk not on the road;
for the foe has a sword,
and terror is abroad.
Gird on sackcloth, my daughter, 26
my people,
sprinkle yourself with ashes,
mourn as for an only son,
lamenting bitterly;
for suddenly the spoiler
falls upon you."
- "I have made you an assayer 27
for my folk,
to learn and to assay their
life—
rebellious creatures, all of them, 28
slandering me up and down!
base metal, all of them,
wholly depraved!
The bellows make a blast, 29
the fire consumes the lead;
but vain it is to smelt them,
for the slag cannot be purged
away.
'Refuse silver' is their name; 30
for the Eternal refuses to have
them."
- The message that came to 7
Jeremiah from the Eternal:
Stand at the gate of the Eter- 2
nal's house and make this pro-
clamation there. "Listen to the
Eternal's message, all you Judah-
ites, who enter by these gates
to worship the Eternal; here is 3

what the Lord of hosts, the God
 4 of Israel, has to say. Amend
 your life and doings, that I may
 dwell among you in the temple
 here. Do not rely on false
 phrases like, 'This is the Eter-
 nal's own temple, his very own
 temple, his very own temple!' 5
 [[If you really amend your life
 and doings, if you really see
 justice done between man and
 6 man, if you give up oppressing
 aliens, orphans, and widows,
 give up shedding innocent blood
 in this place and following other
 7 gods to your own hurt, then
 I will allow you to remain in this
 place, in the land that I gave to
 your fathers for all time.]]
 8 You are relying on false phrases,
 9 to no profit. What? Steal,
 murder, commit adultery, per-
 jure yourselves, sacrifice to
 Baal, wander after other gods,
 10 outside gods, and then come
 to present yourselves before
 me in this house, which
 belongs to me, thinking you
 are now quite safe—safe
 to go on with all these abomi-
 11 nable practices! Do you take
 this house, my very own house,
 for a robbers' cave? I see you,
 12 the Eternal cries, I see you! Go
 to my sacred shrine at Shilo,
 where at first I fixed my pres-
 ence; look at what I did to it, on
 account of the wickedness of
 Israel my people! So now with
 13 you. Since you have done all
 this, since you would not listen
 when I spoke to you eagerly and
 earnestly, since you would not
 answer my call—as I did to
 14 Shilo, so will I do to my very
 own house here, the house on
 which you rest your confidence,
 and to the place that I gave
 15 to you and your fathers. And
 I will fling you out of my
 sight, as I flung out your

kinsmen, the whole race of Ephraim.

Jeremiah, pray not for this 16
 people; lift no cry for them, and
 lay no plea of intercession be-
 fore me, for I will not listen to
 you. Do you not see what they 17
 are doing in the towns of Judah
 and in the streets of Jerusalem?
 The children are gathering fire- 18
 wood, the fathers kindle the fire,
 and the women knead dough, to
 make cakes for the Queen of
 Heaven; also they pour liba-
 tions out to other gods—in
 order to spite me! Spite me? 19
 says the Eternal—they are
 spiting themselves, bringing
 shame on themselves! This, 20
 therefore, is the sentence of the
 Lord Eternal: my anger and
 fury shall be poured on this
 place, over man and beast, tree
 and crop; it shall burn, never
 to be quenched."

This is what the Lord of hosts, 21
 the God of Israel, says: "You
 can add your burnt-offerings to
 your other sacrifices, and eat
 the flesh yourselves! When I 22
 brought your fathers from the
 land of Egypt, I said nothing
 to them, I gave them no orders,
 about burnt-offerings or sacri-
 fices; my orders were, 'Listen 23
 to my voice, and I will be your
 God, you shall be my people:
 live exactly as I order you, that
 you may prosper.' But they 24
 would not listen, they would not
 lend an ear; they lived as their
 own evil, stubborn hearts
 prompted them; they grew
 worse instead of better. From 25
 the day your fathers left the
 land of Egypt, down to this
 day, I have been sending you
 all my servants the prophets
 eagerly and earnestly. But 26
 this people would not listen to
 me, they would not lend an

- ear; they were obdurate, they did worse than their fathers.
- 27 [[Tell them all this,
yet they will not listen to you;
summon them,
yet they will not reply.]]
- 28 Tell them, here is the nation
that would never listen
to the voice of the Eternal
their own God,
that never would be schooled,
that has ceased even to speak
of being faithful."
- 29 "Cut off your tresses, cast them
away,
raise dirges on the bare
heights;
for the Eternal has rejected and
renounced
a race with whom he is wroth.
- 30 For the men of Judah have
done evil under my eyes," says
the Eternal; "they have defiled
the house that belongs to me,
by putting their detestable idols
inside it, and they have erected
shrines to Topheth, in the valley
belonging to Ben-Hinnom, for
burning alive their sons and
daughters—a thing that I never
ordered, a thing that never
entered my mind. So the day
will come, the Eternal declares,
when its name shall no longer
be Topheth, or The valley be-
longing to Ben-Hinnom, but
The valley of slaughter; for they
will be burying corpses in To-
pheth, till no room is left. The
corpses of this people shall be
food for the wild birds and the
wild beasts; no one shall scare
34 them away. And I will silence
in the towns of Judah and in the
streets of Jerusalem the sound
of mirth and joy, the voice of
the bridegroom and the voice
of the bride; the land shall lie
8 waste. At that time, says the

Eternal, the bones of the kings
of Judah, the authorities, the
priests, the prophets, and the
citizens of Jerusalem, shall be
torn from their graves and 2
spread out before the sun, the
moon, and all the starry host,
whom they loved and served,
whom they followed and con-
sulted, whom they worshipped;
instead of being gathered and
buried, they shall be so much
dung on the surface of the earth.
And wherever I scatter the rest, 3
all the survivors of this evil race,
they shall prefer death to life,
says the Lord of hosts.
Tell them that this is the Eter- 4
nal's word:
Do not men get up when they
fall?
Do they not retrace their
steps.
after a wrong turning?
Then why does this people per- 5
sist,
when they have taken a
wrong turning?
They stick to their falsehood,
they will not retrace their
steps.

I have listened and heard what 6
they say;
not a word of the truth!—
not a man repenting of his
sin,
saying, 'What have I done?'
Everyone plunges ahead,
like a cavalry charge!

The very stork of the air 7
knows when to migrate;
the dove, the swift, the crane,
keep to the time of their
coming;
but my people never heed
the Eternal's ruling.

What! you say, 'We are wise, 8
we do have his directions'—

- when lo, your scribes have
written them wrong,
and falsified them?
- 9 No, the 'wise' shall be discom-
fited,
dismayed and tricked.
They have rejected the Eternal's
word;
so what 'wisdom' have they?
- 13 I will destroy them utterly, says
the Eternal,
for there are no grapes on
that vine,
no figs on that fig-tree—
their leaf is fading!"
- 14 "Why sit we still?
Let us gather together
and make for the fortified towns,
to meet our doom there!
For our God has doomed us to
perish,
has drugged us with poison,
for sinning against him!
- 15 We looked for peace,
but no good came;
for an hour of healing,
and here is dismay!
- 16 We can hear the foemen's horses
snorting as far north as Dan;
at the neighing of his stallions
the whole country quakes;
the land is laid bare, at their
coming,
the city stripped of citizens."
- 17 "Yes, I am sending you ser-
pents,
snakes that none can charm;
and they shall bite you,"
the Eternal declares.
- 18 My sorrow is past healing,
my heart is sick within me.
- 19 Look at my poor people,
moaning far and wide—
"Is the Eternal not in Sion?
Has her King left her?"
- 20 Summer is over, the harvest is
ended—
with nothing to keep us
alive "
- My poor people, they are 21
broken,
and I am broken-hearted;
I go a-mourning,
seized with dismay.
Surely Gilead has balsam! 22
Surely there are healers there!
Then why does not my poor
people
get healing for their wound?
Oh that my head were waters, 9
mine eyes a fount of tears,
that I might weep all day and
night
for the slain of my poor
people!
- Oh that I were in the wolds 2
at a khan for wayfarers!
For fain would I forsake my
people
and be quit of them!
They are adulterers, all of them,
a gang of faithless men;
they ply their tongues 3
like bows, for slander;
they are a power for dishonesty,
not for honesty, in the
land.
They pass from one crime to
another,
"ignoring me," says the Eter-
nal.
- Beware of your neighbours, 4
let no one trust his brother;
for a brother will cheat like a
Jacob,
and a neighbour will be
slandering;
each deceives the other, 5
no one tells the truth,
they train themselves to lie,
these knaves and fools,
they oppress and oppress,
they deceive and deceive, 6
and—"they choose to ignore
me,"
says the Eternal.
- "Therefore"—the Lord of hosts 7
declares—

- "I must test them in the melting-pot;
 for how can I overlook my people's crimes?
 8 Their tongues are deadly arrows,
 with their treacherous talk;
 a man speaks to his neighbour peaceably,
 and secretly he plots against him.
 9 Must I not punish them for that?"
 the Eternal asks;
 "shall I not make such people pay for that?
 10 Raise a lament for the mountains,
 a dirge for the downs,
 wasted and emptied of men;
 no lowing of cattle in them,
 all creatures have fled and gone,
 both bird and beast;
 11 and Jerusalem I will turn into a heap of ruins,
 a mere haunt of jackals;
 the townships of Judah I will lay bare,
 till none dwells there."
 12 [[Who is wise enough to understand this?
 Who is in the Eternal's confidence to know
 why the country is so ruined,
 like a desert waste untravelled?
 13 "Because they have forsaken the law I put before them,
 and disobeyed my orders,
 and not lived as I told them;
 14 because they followed their own stubborn minds,
 and Baals, as their fathers taught them;
 15 therefore," says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel,
 "I will feed this people with bitter wormwood
 and give them poisonous drugs,
 I will scatter them among 16
 nations
 unknown to them and their fathers,
 and after them I send the sword,
 till I have done away with them."]]
 Listen, call the mourning wo- 17
 men,
 call them to come!
 Send for those well-skilled in dirges,
 call them quick to come!— 18
 to raise a coronach over us,
 till our own eyes run down with tears,
 and floods gush from our eyelids.
 Yet listen to the Eternal, O ye 20
 women,
 let your ears take in his words,
 ere you teach your daughters a lament,
 or a dirge to your fellows;
 listen to this wail from Sion— 19
 "What ruin, what dishonour!
 forced to leave our country,
 forced away from home!
 Death has climbed in at our 21
 windows,
 made his way into our halls,
 Death cuts down the children in the street,
 and young men in the square;
 dead bodies drop like dung 22
 over the country,
 like wisps behind a reaper,
 never lifted."
 * * *
 Listen to the word of the 10
 Eternal for you, O house of Israel; here is what the Eternal 2
 says:
 Never learn to live like pagans,
 dismayed at portents in the sky;
 pagans are dismayed at them,
 but their rites are inane. 3
 Here is a tree felled from the forest,
 trimmed by a woodman's axe,

- 4a decked out with silver and with gold,
 9 with plates of silver from Tarsessus,
 with gold from Ophir,
 all jewellers' and joiners' work,
 decked out in violet and purple cloth,
 the work of craftsmen.
 4b then propped with nails and hammer,
 to keep it from falling!
 5 Idols are like scarecrows in a field,
 they cannot say a word;
 they have to be carried,
 for they cannot move a step.
 Have no fear of them; they cannot hurt you—
 no, nor help you!
 6 [[There is none like thee, O Eternal;
 great thou art, great thy presence in its power.
 7 O King of nations, who would not revere thee?
 For reverence is thy due;
 no sage, no royalty, in all the world,
 none is like thee.]]
 8 Stupid and senseless are they,
 one and all—
 what idols teach is wooden like themselves!
 10 But the Eternal is the real God,
 a living God, an everlasting King;
 earth trembles when he rages,
 no nation can endure his wrath
 11 [[Tell them this: the gods who never made heaven and earth shall vanish off the earth and from under heaven]],
 12 who by his power made the earth,
 who by his wisdom founded the world,
 and by his knowledge spread heaven out;
 13 when he thunders, the heavens are in tumult,
 he makes mists rise from the ends of the earth,
 he flashes lightning through the rain,
 and brings wind from his store-houses.
 It strikes man dumb and senseless;
 the goldsmith is ashamed of his carved image,
 his metal image is a futile thing.
 There is no breath of life in idols; 15
 they are a vain delusion,
 they break down when the test arrives—
 not like him who is Jacob's own 16
 possession;
 for he who formed the universe is Jacob's God,
 his name is the Lord of hosts.
 * * *
 Pick up your bundle to depart, 17
 O city besieged!
 [[For here is what the Eternal 18
 says: This time I am going to eject the inhabitants of the country and harry them until they pay the penalty.]]
 I said, "Alas, I am undone, 19
 my wound is deep!
 a wound indeed, and yet
 I must endure it.
 My tent is wrecked, 20
 the ropes all broken;
 my children are no more,
 they are all gone,
 none left to raise my tent again,
 to hang up its curtains.
 For the authorities were senseless, 21
 seeking no guidance from the Eternal;
 so they had no success,
 and all their folk are scattered.
 Listen, there comes a din, 22
 a mighty clamour from the north!
 Judah's townships are to turn a waste,
 a haunt for jackals."

23 [[O thou Eternal, well thou knowest that man's course lies not in his own hands; it is not in a man to keep control over his actions. So correct us, O Eternal One, but not too hard; not in a passion of thine anger, lest thou make our numbers few.
24 Vent thy full fury on pagans who ignore thee,
on races who never invoke thee;
for they have devoured Jacob utterly
and laid waste his home-
stead.]]

9 A word from the Eternal: A
23 wise man must not glory in his wisdom, nor a warrior in his strength, nor the rich man in his riches; he who glories is to glory in this, that he has insight into me, that he knows I am the Eternal who deals in kindness, justice, and goodness upon earth—for these are my delight.
24 [[The day is coming, the Eternal declares, when I will punish all the circumcised who are uncircumcised in heart—Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab, together with the crop-haired nomads; all other nations are uncircumcised, and the house of Judah is all uncircumcised in heart.]]

11 This message came to Jeremiah from the Eternal, "Speak to the men of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem, tell them that this is the word of the Eternal, the God of Israel: 'Listen to the terms of this compact—a curse on the man who will not
4 listen!—this compact which I enjoined upon your fathers when I brought them out of that iron furnace, the land of Egypt; I told you, if you obeyed

my orders and carried out all my commands, then you would be my people, and I would be a God 5 to you, confirming the oath I swore to your fathers, when I promised them a land abounding in milk and honey—as you have to-day.'" I answered the Eternal that I would certainly proclaim this. Then the Eternal 6 bade me proclaim all this in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, "Listen to the terms of this compact, and obey them." But they did not obey them.

The Eternal then said to me, 9 "There is mutiny among the men of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem; they have gone 10 back to the iniquities of their ancestors who would not listen to what I said; they have gone after foreign gods, to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken the compact I made with their fathers. Therefore (the Eternal 11 declares) I am bringing disaster on them, that they cannot escape; nor will I listen to them, when they cry to me. The 12 townsmen of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem may go and cry to the gods to whom they sacrifice; but they will be no help to them at all on the day of their disaster."

What right has my beloved in 15 my house,
when she has given herself to vile ways?
Can vows and consecrated flesh absolve your guilt,
or let you off?
You once were called to be 16 a lovely spreading olive-tree; but it is blasted in a thunder-clap,
its branches broken.

17 [[For the Lord of hosts, who planted you, has decreed evil against you, on account of the evil wilfully done by the house of Israel and the house of Judah in spiting me by sacrificing to Baal.]]

* * *

18 The Eternal lets me know their plot,

I see what they are doing!

19 I was like a trustful lamb,
led out to be slaughtered;

I knew not of their plot,
to cut me down in my full bloom,

to cut me out of the land of the living,
that my very name might be forgotten.

20 Ah but, O thou Eternal, thou just judge,
testing the very heart and mind,

I shall see thee take vengeance on them;
for I have told thee of my plight.

21 "This, then, is the Eternal's sentence on the men of Anâthoth, who seek your life, saying, 'You must not prophesy in the name of the Eternal, else

22 you die at our hands'—this is what the Lord of hosts has to say: I will punish them,
their young men shall be put to the sword,
their sons and daughters shall perish by famine,

23 not one survivor shall be left to them;
for I will bring disaster on the men of Anâthoth,
in the year fixed for their punishment."

12 Thou art always in the right,
Eternal One,
when I complain to thee;

yet I would argue this with thee—

Why do bad men prosper?
why are scoundrels secure and serene?

Thou plantest them and they 2
take root,
they flourish, yes and they bear fruit!

Thou art always on their lips,
but far, far from their hearts.

Eternal One, thou knowest 3
me,

hast proved how true is my heart to thee;

drag them away like sheep to the slaughter,
reserve them for their day of doom!"

[[How long is the land to lie woe- 4
begone,
and the green growth all to wither?

Birds and beasts are perishing
by the wickedness of the natives,
who say, "God never sees what we do!"

Wheat they sow and thorns they 13
reap—

plenty of pains and no profit!
they are disappointed of their crops,

by the fierce anger of the Eternal.]]

"If you have run with men on 5
foot, and they have tired you out,
then how can you keep up with horses?

If you take cover in a land of peace,
then what will you do in the jungle of Jordan?

For even your brothers and your 6
father's household,
even they have played you false,
even they have raised a hue and cry after you;

- never trust them, for all their
smooth words.
* * *
- 7 I have forsaken my house,
I have abandoned my heri-
tage,
I have given over my dearly
beloved
to the hand of her foes.
- 8 My heritage has turned upon
me,
like a lion in the forest;
she has raised her voice against
me—
so I hate her.
- 9 Do I count my heritage a car-
case torn by hyenas,
that the vultures gather
round her?
Go and gather all the wild
beasts,
bring them to devour her.
- 10 A host of nomads have de-
stroyed my vineyard,
and trampled down my
lot;
my delightful lot is made
a desolate waste.
- 11 They have made it desolate,
desolate, woebegone, to my
sorrow;
the country lies all desolate,
and no one takes it to
heart.
- 12 The ravagers roam the very
heights on the downs,
for the Eternal's sword de-
vours
the land from end to end,
till not a creature is secure.
- 14 As for all my evil neighbours,
who lay hands upon the heritage
which I made over to my people
Israel, I will tear them from
their land," says the Eternal,
"and I will tear the house of
Judah from their hands. But,
- 15 Judah from their hands. But,
after I have torn them up, I will
relent and have pity on them,
and put them back, every man
of them on his own property
and on his land. Then, if they 16
are careful to learn the ways of
my people and how to swear by
my name, saying 'As the Eter-
nal lives!' (just as once they
taught my people here to swear
by Baal), they shall be built up
among my people; but if any of 17
them will not listen, then I will
tear up that nation, uprooting
it," says the Eternal.
- This is what the Eternal said 13
to me: "Go and get a linen
waist-cloth, and wrap it round
your waist; do not steep it in
water." So I got a waist-cloth, 2
as the Eternal had told me, and
I put it on. A second time the 3
Eternal's word came to me, say-
ing, "Take that waist-cloth you 4
bought, the waist-cloth round
your waist, and go away and
hide it at Parah in a crevice of
the rock." So I went and 5
buried it at Parah, as the Eter-
nal had ordered me. Many 6
days afterwards the Eternal
said to me, "Go to Parah and
fetch the waist-cloth which I
ordered you to bury there." So 7
I went to Parah and unearthed
the waist-cloth from the place
where I had buried it. And the
waist-cloth was spoiled, quite
useless! Then the word of the 8
Eternal came to me saying,
"Hereby the Eternal declares: 9
So will I spoil the pride of
Judah and the vast pride of
Jerusalem. 'This evil people, who 10
will not listen to my words, who
follow their own stubborn mind
and go after foreign gods to
serve and worship them—they
are to become quite useless, like
this waist-cloth. For I meant 11
the whole house of Judah and
the whole house of Israel to hold
fast to me, says the Eternal,
close as a waist-cloth round a
man's waist, to be a people for

- me, a source of renown, of praise and honour to me; but they
 12 would not listen to me. You shall give them this word, straight from the Eternal, the God of Israel: 'Every jar must be filled with wine.' If they answer, 'Do we not know that?'
 13 then you must tell them straight from the Eternal: 'I will fill all the dwellers in this land, the kings on David's throne, priests, prophets, all the citizens of Jerusalem, fill them till they are
 14 drunk, and dash them one against another, father and son together' (so the Eternal declares); I will have no mercy, I will not spare, I will have no pity, till I destroy them." * * *
- 15 Listen—it is the Eternal speaking—
 be not too proud to hearken;
 16 do honour to the Eternal, your God,
 before the darkness falls,
 before your footsteps stumble on the twilight hills,
 before the gleam you look for turns
 to a dead gloom.
 17 If you will not listen,
 then I must weep in secret for your pride,
 mine eyes must stream with tears,
 for the Eternal's flock borne off to exile.
- 18 Say to the king, say to the queen-mother,
 "Sit low down;
 for from your heads has dropped your glorious crown."
- 19 The towns in the south are hemmed in,
 none can raise the siege;
 Judah is all swept away,
 swept into exile.
- Jerusalem, lift up your eyes and
 look,
 see who are on you from the north!
 Where is the flock entrusted to your charge,
 that flock so fair?
- What will you say when you feel
 the sway
 of those you trained as allies?
 Shall not anguish seize you,
 like the throes of a woman in labour?
- And if you say to yourself,
 "Why ever has this befallen me?"—
 it is for a host of sins
 that you are exposed and stripped.
- Can a negro change his skin? 20
 Can a leopard change his spots?
 As soon can you do right,
 so accustomed to do wrong!
- I will scatter you like straw, 21
 driven by a desert wind;
 such is the lot I deal to you,
 your destiny, 25
 because you have forgotten me,
 says the Eternal,
 and relied on what was false.
- I will lift your skirt high 26
 and expose you naked,
 for your adulteries, your lustful 27
 cries,
 your vice so foul.
- Yes, on the open hills
 your lewdness have I seen!
 Woe betide you, Jerusalem!
 Will you ever be clean?
- What the Eternal said to Jere- 14
 miah on the drought.
 A wail goes up from Jerusalem; 2
 Judah is woebegone,

- the citizens cower
and sit in black on the
ground;
- 3 the nobles send out slaves for
water,
but they find none in the res-
ervoirs,
and come back with empty
pitchers,
disappointed and dumb-
founded.
- 4 The farmers are aghast,
for no rain falls;
the ploughmen are dismayed
and cover their heads.
- 5 When the hind calves in the open,
she deserts her young;
- 6 wild asses stand upon the knolls,
panting for air,
their eyes are glazed,
for lack of pasture.
- 22 Who can give rain? Some false
god of the pagans?
Can the skies send down
showers?
Is it not thou, Eternal One, our
God?
And so we wait for thee,
who doest all.
- 7 Act, O Eternal, for thine own
sake,
even though our sins accuse us,
though many a time we have
fallen away,
and sinned against thee.
- 8 But, O thou hope of Israel,
her saviour in an evil plight,
why be like a passing stranger,
one who stays but for a night?
- 9 Why be like a man asleep,
who cannot help?
O thou Eternal, surely thou art
still among us,
we belong to thee;
do not forsake us!
- 10 But the Eternal says of this
people,
"They love to go astray,
with no check on their wan-
dering.

The Eternal is disgusted with
them;
he will remember their guilt
now
and punish their sins."

So the Eternal said to me, 11
"Pray not for this people. I will 12
not listen to their cry, as they
fast, and I will not accept the
burnt-offerings and cereals that
they offer; I will consume them
by the sword, by famine, and by
pestilence." "Ah but, O Lord 13
Eternal!" I replied, "the proph-
ets tell them that they will
never suffer from the sword nor
from famine, since thou wilt
give them in this place a settled
peace." Then said the Eternal, 14
"The prophets are prophesying
lies in my name. I never sent
them, never gave them orders,
never spoke to them; what they
prophesy to you is a lying vision,
a hollow superstition, a decep-
tion of their own minds. This 15
therefore is what the Eternal
has to say about the prophets
who prophesy in my name,
though I never sent them, who
promise there will never be
sword or famine in this country:
by sword and by famine shall
those very prophets perish,
while the people to whom they 16
prophesy shall be flung out into
the streets of Jerusalem, dead
of famine and the sword, with
not a soul to bury either them
or their wives or their sons or
their daughters—for I will pour
upon them their own wicked-
ness.

And you shall say to them, 17
Let my tears stream night and
day,
never let them give o'er;
for my poor folk are broken,
wounded sore.
When I fare into the fields, 18

there lie the slain of the sword;
when I fare into the city,
there is the famine raging;
prophet and priest crouch on the ground,
at their wits' end."

19 Hast thou rejected Judah altogether?

Hast thou a loathing for Sion?
Why, then, hast thou struck us,
past all recovery?
We looked for peace,
but no good came;
for an hour of healing,
and here is dismay!

20 O thou Eternal, we confess our guilt,

and the sin of our fathers;
we have sinned against thee—

21 ah, abhor us not, for thine own sake,

bring no disgrace upon thy glorious throne,

break not thy compact with us, but recall it.

15 Then the Eternal said to me,
"Even though Moses and Samuel stood before me, my mind could not turn to this people;
away with them out of my sight

2 —begone! And if they ask you,

"Where are we to go?" then tell them this is the Eternal's answer: "To the pestilence—all who are doomed to pestilence; to the sword—all those who are doomed to the sword; to famine—all those who are doomed to famine; and to exile—all who

3 are doomed to exile!" Four sorts of death I will assign them, the Eternal declares: sword to slay, dogs to tear, wild birds to devour, wild beasts to consume.

4 And I will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the world, on account of what Manasseh son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, did in Jerusalem.

Yes, who will pity you, Jerusalem?

Who will bemoan you?

Who will ever turn aside to ask for you?

You rejected me, says the Eternal,

ever rebelling;

so I put out my hand to crush you—

I am tired of relenting!

I winnow them with a sieve, 7

in all their townships;

I bereave them of their children,

I destroy my people,

for their vile ways;

at noonday I bring raiders 8b

upon mothers and their sucklings,

suddenly I strike them 8c

with anguish and with terror;

even a mother of seven sons 9a

droops and swoons,

her sun sets ere the day is done.

she is crushed and confounded; 9b

Widows? I have made more 8c

widows than the sands of all the sea;

and the rest of them I leave 9c

for their foes to cut to pieces."

* * *
Alas, my mother! you have 10

borne me to clash and quarrel with all the world!

I never lent, I never borrowed money,

and yet all curse me!

Amen to their curses, O Eternal, 11

if ever I failed to pray to thee

for the welfare of my foes, in disaster and distress!

Am I of iron to withstand them? 12

Can my strength hold out?

Eternal One, thou knowest me, 13

remember me, look after me;

take vengeance for me on my persecutors,

strike instantly in anger;

- remember, 'tis for thy sake I am
taunted
by creatures who despise thy
word.
- 16 But I delight in it, my very soul
thrills at thy word;
for I belong to thee,
O thou Eternal, God of hosts.
- 17 I never joined the jesting band,
I never rioted;
I sat alone under thy hand,
sharing all thine indignation.
- 18 Why, then, do I suffer cease-
lessly,
why does my wound fester?
Wilt thou really disappoint me
like a stream that runs dry?
- 19 This was the Eternal's answer:
"If you will give up murmuring,
I will restore you to my ser-
vice;
if you will purify yourself from
passion's dross,
then you shall be my spokes-
man.
Let other men come over to your
side,
but go not over to join them.
- 20 I will make you a rampart of a
fort
to resist this people;
they shall attack you but not
master you,
for I am with you to succour
you;
- 21 I will deliver you from evil men,
and free you from the clutches
of the cruel."
- 16 This message from the Eter-
2 nal came to me, "You must not
marry a wife, you must not have
sons or daughters in this place.
- 3 For this is the Eternal's sen-
tence on the sons and daughters
born in this place, on the
mothers who bore them, and on
4 their fathers in this place: 'They
shall die of the pestilence, with
none to wail for them and none
to bury them; they shall lie like
dung upon the surface of the
ground. They shall be con-
sumed by the sword and by
famine and their corpses shall
be food for wild birds and wild
beasts.' This is the Eternal's 5
order:
Never enter a house of mourn-
ing,
never go to lament or bemoan
them;
for I withdraw my goodwill
from this people,
says the Eternal.
- Throughout the land both high 6
and low shall die
and all unburied lie,
with none to lament or gash
themselves
or cut their hair for them,
with none to press the mourner 7
to take food
on their account,
with none to hand a cup of
comfort
for a father or a mother's
death.
- Nor shall you enter any house of 8
feasting,
to eat and drink in company.
For thus declares the Lord of 9
hosts,
the God of Israel:
Before your eyes and in your
day
I banish from this place
the sound of mirth and gladness,
the voice of bridegroom and
of bride.
- Now, when you tell all this to 10
the people, and they ask you,
'Why has the Eternal decreed
all this terrible misery against
us? What is our crime? What
sin have we committed against
the Eternal, our God?' then tell 11
them, 'It is because your
fathers forsook me, the Eternal

- says, because they followed foreign gods, serving them and worshipping them, because they forsook me and did not keep my law; and because you have done worse than your fathers, each of you following his own evil, stubborn mind, and refusing to listen to me—that is why I expel you from this land to a land that neither you nor your fathers ever knew, where you will have to serve foreign gods day and night, who will show you no favour.’ I am sending for many a fisherman, says the Eternal, to capture this people. After that, I will send for many a huntsman, to hunt them out of every mountain and hill and cranny of the rocks.
- 17 For mine eye is on all they do, nothing is hidden from me, their guilt does not escape me.
- 18 I will doubly punish their guilt and sin,
for desecrating my land with dead, detestable idols,
for filling up my heritage with their abominations.
- 21 So I will let them feel,
this once I will let them feel,
the full force of my power,
to teach them that my name is the Eternal.”
* * *
- 19 O thou Eternal, my strength, my stronghold, my refuge in the hour of trouble, nations shall come from the ends of the earth to thee, saying, “All the traditions our fathers inherited were lies, vain and profitless. Is man to make gods for himself—gods that are no gods at all?”
* * *
- 17 “Judah’s sin is printed with a pen of iron,
with a point of adamant,
plain on the tablets of their heart,
on the very knobs of their altars,
on every spreading tree, upon the heights,
upon the hills in the open country.
Your goods and all your treasures,
I will have them seized as spoil,
in requital for sins done within your borders.
You must part with the heritage I put into your hands,
and I will make you serve your foes in foreign lands;
for you have kindled my wrath to a flame
that shall blaze on and on.”
- This is the Eternal’s word:
A curse on him who relies on man,
and leans upon mere human aid,
turning his thoughts from the Eternal!
He is like some desert scrub,
that never thrives,
set in a dry place in the steppes,
in a salt, solitary land.
But happy he who relies on the Eternal,
with the Eternal for his confidence!
He is like a tree planted beside a stream,
reaching its roots to the water;
untouched by any fear of scorching heat,
its leaves are ever green,
it goes on bearing fruit in days of drought,
and lives serene.
- [[Like a partridge hatching eggs it never laid,
so is the man who makes money unfairly;

it leaves him ere his life is over,
and in the end he proves him-
self a fool.]]

- 12 [[The site of our sanctuary is
a glorious throne, exalted from
13 the very first. O thou Eternal,
the hope of Israel, all who for-
sake thee shall be disappointed,
those who abandon thee in the
land shall be reduced to shame,
because they have forsaken the
Eternal, the fresh fountain of
water.]]

- 9 Deep is a man's mind, deeper
than all else,
on evil bent;
who can fathom it?
10 "I the Eternal search the mind,
I test the heart,
rewarding every man as he has
lived,
and as his deeds deserve."

- 14 Then heal me, O Eternal, and I
shall be healed,
save me, and I shall be saved;
for it is thou to whom I render
praise.

- 15 Men taunt me, crying,
"Where is the Eternal's word?
Come on with it!"

- 16 Yet never would I press thee
to bring on calamity;
I never longed—thou knowest—
for a judgment day;
all that I ever said,
is known to thee.

- 17 So be not thou a terror to me,
O thou my refuge on the day
of evil.

- 18 Terrify my tormentors,
but not me;
bring on them the day of evil,
double ruin for them.

* * *

- 19 This is what the Eternal said
to me. "Go and stand at the
gate of Benjamin, where the
kings of Judah pass in and out,

and at all the gates of Jerusa-
lem, saying: 'Listen to the word 20
of the Eternal, you kings of Ju-
dah, all you men of Judah, and
all citizens of Jerusalem who
enter by these gates. This is 21
what the Eternal says: For the 22
sake of your lives, never carry
a load on the sabbath, or bring
anything in through the gates
of Jerusalem; never carry any
load out of your houses on the
sabbath, nor do any work, but
keep the sabbath sacred, as I
ordered your fathers—though 23
they would not listen, they
would not lend an ear, but
obstinately refused to listen
and take warning. But if you 24
attend to me carefully, says the
Eternal, and bring in no load
through the gates of this city
on the sabbath, if you keep the
sabbath sacred by doing no
work, then kings of David's 25
dynasty, riding in chariots and
on horses, with the men of Ju-
dah and the citizens of Jerusa-
lem, shall pass the gates of this
city, and this city shall always
be inhabited. Men shall come 26
from the towns of Judah and
the districts round Jerusalem
and the land of Benjamin and
the lowlands and the highlands
and the south, bringing burnt-
offerings and sacrifices and
cereal-offerings and incense and
thank-offerings to the house of
the Eternal. But if you will not 27
listen to me, as I bid you keep
the sabbath sacred and forbid
you to carry in loads through the
gates of Jerusalem on the sab-
bath, then I will light a fire in
the city-gates that will burn up
the buildings of Jerusalem and
never be put out.' "

This message came to Jere- 18
miah from the Eternal: "Get 2
down to the potter's house, and

there I will let you hear what
 3 I have to say." So I went down
 to the potter's house. He was
 4 at work with his wheel; and
 whenever a vessel he was
 making got spoiled in his hands,
 he re-moulded it to please him-
 5 self, till he was satisfied. Then
 the Eternal's word came to me,
 6 "O house of Israel, cannot I do
 to you as this potter does?
 Why, as the clay in the potter's
 hands, so you are in my hands.
 7 [[At one time I may speak of
 tearing up a nation or kingdom,
 breaking it down and destroying
 8 it; but if that nation turns from
 its evil, I will change my mind
 about the evil that I thought
 9 of inflicting upon it. Again, I
 may speak of building up a
 nation or kingdom, of planting
 10 it; but if that nation does evil
 in my sight by refusing to listen
 to my voice, then I will change
 my mind about the benefits
 which I meant to bestow upon it.
 11 So give the men of Judah and
 the citizens of Jerusalem this
 message from the Eternal: 'I
 am shaping a calamity for you
 and devising a plan against you;
 ah, turn everyone of you from
 your evil courses, amend your
 12 life and work!' They will say,
 'It is no use to talk; we mean to
 live as we choose, and follow,
 every man of us, our own evil
 stubborn minds.']"
 13 This is what the Eternal
 says:
 "Inquire among the nations
 if the like of this was ever
 heard,
 the awful thing
 that maiden Israel has done?
 14 Does hoar-frost ever leave
 mount Sirion,
 or snow Lebánon?
 Do cold streams from the hills
 ever run dry?

And yet my people have for- 15
 gotten me,
 and sacrificed to no-gods!
 So they stumble as they pass
 along the old path,
 and then take to bypaths of
 their own,
 badly made;
 till their country goes to ruin, 16
 a scorn and horror for all time,
 at which the passer-by is
 shocked
 and openly derides.
 Like a sirocco will I scatter 17
 them
 in flight before their foe;
 my back and not my face I turn
 to them,
 upon their day of woe."
 * * *
 "Come on," they said, "let us 18
 contrive a plot against Jere-
 miah; we shall not fail to get
 advice about it from the priests,
 or counsel from the sages, or
 some inspiration from the
 prophets. Come on, let us
 undermine him with some slan-
 der; let us note every word he
 says."
 Note them. O Eternal, 19
 listen to my foes!
 Is good to be repaid by evil? 20
 They have dug a pit to take
 my life,
 men for whom once (remember)
 I interceded,
 pleading in thy presence
 to avert thy wrath from
 them!
 Leave their children to fall by 21
 famine,
 throw them to the sword!
 May their wives be childless
 and widows,
 their men die by the pesti-
 lence,
 their young men be slain in
 war!
 Let shrieks rise from their 22
 homes,

when suddenly thou bringest
the raiders on them!

For they have dug a pit to cap-
ture me,
and hidden traps to catch my
feet.

23 But, O Eternal, well thou
knowest

all their murderous moves
against me;

never pardon their iniquity,

never blot out their sin:

trip them till they crash before
thee,

deal with them in thy day of
anger!

19 The Eternal said to me, "Go
and get a potter's jar of clay;

get some of the leading laymen

2 and some of the priests, and go

out to the valley belonging to
Ben-Hinnom, close to the entry

of the Potsherd Gate; there

3 announce the message I give

you, saying, 'Listen to the word
of the Eternal, O kings of Judah

and citizens of Jerusalem. 'This

is what the Lord of hosts, the
God of Israel, says: I am

bringing a disaster on this city,
that will make the ears of every

4 hearer ring; because the people

have forsaken me and dese-
crated this valley by sacrificing

here to foreign gods, which

neither they nor their fathers

ever knew; kings of Judah have

5 drenched this valley with inno-
cent blood and erected shrines

to Baal for burning alive their

children as a sacrifice to Baal—

a thing I never ordered, never

6 mentioned, a thing that never
entered my mind. So the day

will come, the Eternal declares,
when its name shall no longer be

Topheth, or The valley be-
longing to Ben-Hinnom, but

7 The valley of Slaughter; I will
empty out here this jar full of

plans made by Judah and Jerusa-

lem; I will make them fall by the

sword before their enemies and

die by the hand of murderous

pursuers, leaving their corpses

as food for the wild birds and

wild beasts; I will make this 8

city a desolation and a scorn, so

that any passer-by shall whistle

in surprise and horror at all my

crushing blows; I will make the 9

citizens eat the flesh of their own

sons and daughters, and every

man shall eat the flesh of his

fellow, in the siege and straits

by which their enemies and

murderous pursuers hem them

in.' Then you must break the 10

jar in presence of the men

who have accompanied you,

giving them this message from 11

the Lord of hosts: 'I will break

this people and this city just as

one breaks a potter's jar, so

that it cannot be repaired.

That is how I will treat this city 12

and its citizens, says the Eter-
nal. I will desecrate this city 13

like Topheth, and make the

house of Jerusalem and of the

kings of Judah as unclean as

Topheth, all the houses on

whose roofs sacrifice was offered

to the starry host and libations

poured out in honour of foreign

gods.'"

Then Jeremiah left Topheth, 14

where the Eternal had sent him

to prophesy, and stood inside

the court of the Eternal's house,

where he told the people, "This 15

is what the Lord of hosts, the

God of Israel, says: 'I am bring-

ing on the city and on all her

townships the full evil that I

threatened; for they have ob-

stinately refused to listen to my

words.'"

Now when Pashhur, the son 20

of the priest Immer, who was in

charge of the Eternal's house,

heard Jeremiah making this

2 prophecy, Pashhur struck the prophet Jeremiah and put him in the stocks at the upper Gate of Benjamin, beside the house of 3 the Eternal. Next day, when Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, "The Eternal's name for you is not Pashhur but Terror; 4 for this is what the Eternal says, 'I will make you a terror both to yourself and to all your friends; they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, while you look on. I will hand over all Judah to the king of Babylon, to be carried off in exile to Babylon and slain by the 5 sword; moreover, I will hand over all the wealth of this city and all its possessions, all the treasures of the kings of Judah, to their enemies, who shall rifle and seize them and bear them 6 off to Babylon. And as for you and your household, Pashhur, you shall be exiled; you shall go to Babylon and die there and be buried there, you and all the friends to whom you have been a false prophet.' "

* * *

14 Cursed be the day when I was born, unblessed the day my mother bore me!

15 Cursed be the man who told my father, crying, "A son is born to you!" and giving him joy.

16 May that man fare as fared the towns that the Eternal pitilessly crushed!

May he hear shrieks at dawn, and the battle-cry at noon,

17 because he did not stifle me in the womb!

Then would my mother have been my tomb, and her womb ever big with me.

Why did I ever leave the womb, 18 only for toil and trouble, only to wear out my life with shame?

Eternal One, thou didst persuade me, and I let myself be persuaded! Thou wast too strong for me, I had to yield.

Now all day long I am a laughing-stock; men all deride me.

Whenever I speak, they mock, 8 and they ill-treat me; for uttering the Eternal's word day after day,

I am taunted and insulted. If I say, "I will not mention it, 9 I will not speak in his name any more,"

then I feel within me as it were a fire that burns my very being.

I am tired of this, so tired I cannot bear it any longer;

at every turn I am in terror, 10 for I hear many whispering, "Denounce him! let us denounce him!"

My friends are on the watch for a false step;

"Perhaps," they whisper, "he will make a slip; and then we have him, then for our revenge!"

Ah, but I have the Eternal on 11 my side, a dread and doughty champion!

My persecutors shall collapse and miss their aim; bitter shall be their shame over their failure, a lasting shame to them, never to be forgotten.

* * *

The message that came from 21 the Eternal to Jeremiah, when king Zedekiah sent Pashhur the

son of Malchiah and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaschiah, to ask him, "Pray consult the Eternal on our behalf, for Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon is making war on us; perhaps the Eternal will work a miracle for us, as he has often done, and force the man to retreat." But Jeremiah said to them, "Tell Zedekiah that this is the reply of the Eternal, the God of Israel: 'The weapons you are using to fight the king of Babylon and your Chaldaean besiegers outside the city, I will render useless, and will force you back inside the city, where I myself will fight you with might and main, in anger, fury, and fierce wrath; I will strike down the citizens of this city, and beasts as well as men shall die of a great pestilence. Then (the Eternal declares) I will hand over Zedekiah king of Judah, with his officers, and with any citizens who survive the pestilence, the sword, and the famine, to the enemy and to those who would destroy them, till they are killed without quarter, without pity, not one spared.'" "Also," said the Eternal, "tell this people that the Eternal's message is: 'Here I put before you the way of life and the way of death; anyone who stays in the city shall die by the sword, by famine, or by pestilence; but anyone who leaves and surrenders to your Chaldaean besiegers shall live, he shall escape with his life. For I have determined evil and not good for this city; it shall be handed over to the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it up. And as many a nation passes this city, every man shall ask his fellow, 'Why has the Eternal done this to you

great city?' And the answer will be, 'Because they gave up their compact with the Eternal their God and worshipped foreign gods and served them.'"

O dweller in the glen,
on the rocks of the table-land, I am against you,
the Eternal declares!
You with your boast, "Who can reach us?
Who can push into our lairs?"
I will punish you for your misdeeds,
the Eternal declares,
lighting a fire in your forest,
to burn down everything.

The Eternal bade me go down to the palace of the king of Judah and there deliver this message: "Listen to the word of the Eternal, O king of Judah, seated on the throne of David—you and your officers and your people who pass through these gates. This is the Eternal's order: 'Govern justly and fairly, rescue the victims of oppression, never wrong nor ill-treat a resident alien, an orphan, or a widow, and never shed innocent blood in this place. If you carry out this loyally, then kings of David's dynasty, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their officers and people shall pass these palace gates. But if you will not listen to this order, then I swear by myself (the Eternal declares) that this palace shall be laid in ruins.'

For this is the Eternal's decree about the court of the king of Judah. 'Listen to the Eternal's message, O house of David: Govern diligently and justly, rescue the victims of oppression, lest my fury blaze up like fire at your evil doings and burn with

22 none to quench it.' This is
6 what the Eternal has to say
about the court of the king of
Judah:

'Though you were a flourishing
Gilead of growth for me,
a thick-sown crest of Lebā-
non,

I will reduce you to a desert,
like a town untenanted;

7 I will set men to destroy you,
armed men all of them,
to fell your choicest cedars
and fling them in the fire.' "

* * *

10 Weep not for the dead Josiah,
wail not over him;
weep rather for the exile,
who never shall return,
never behold his native land
again.

11 (For this is the Eternal's sen-
tence on Shallum, Josiah's son,
Josiah's successor, who left this
place for exile: "He never shall
12 come back again; he shall die
in the land where they have
carried him into exile; he shall
never see this land again.")

13 Woe to him who builds his
palace on injustice,
his chambers upon fraud,
who forces other men to work
for nothing,

holding back their wages,
14 who thinks to build himself a
spacious palace,
with roomy chambers and
with windows wide,
panelling it with cedar
and painting it vermilion!

15 Are you a king indeed,
because you vie with Ahab?
Did not your father enjoy him-
self?

and he ruled justly, lawfully.

16 Did he not uphold the rights of
weak and wretched men?
And is not that the true
knowledge of me?

But you have neither eyes nor 17
heart

for aught but selfish gain,
for shedding innocent blood,
for outrage and oppression.

This therefore is the Eternal's 18
sentence upon Jehoiakim son of
Josiah, king of Judah:

"There shall be no lamenting
for him—

as men lament a brother or a
sister;

there shall be no lamenting for
him—

as men lament 'My lord!'
'His Majesty!'

As an ass is buried, shall he be 19
buried,

haled along, hurled outside
the gates."

* * *

Climb to Lebānon and call out, 20
raise your voice in Bashan,

wail from the hills of Abārim,
for all your allies are ruined.

I spoke to you in your prosper- 21
ity,

but you refused to listen;
so has it ever been, since you
were young,

you never would listen to me.
Therefore your leaders shall all 22

be swept away,
your allies shall be exiled,

and then your doom shall be dis-
grace and shame.

for all your evil-doing.
You, with your seat on Lebā- 23

non,
nestling among the cedars,

how you will groan when your
agony comes,

like a woman in pains of
labour!

* * *

As sure as I live, says the 24
Eternal, even though Koniah

the son of Jehoiakim, king of
Judah, were a signet ring on my

right hand, I would pull him off.
"Yes, Koniah, and I will hand 25

- you over to your murderers, the men you dread, Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and the
 26 Chaldeans. You and your mother I will fling far into a foreign land, where you shall die, in a land where you were
 27 not born." They shall never get back to the land where their heart longs to return.
 28 What is this creature Koniah? What but a broken pot, a vessel no one cares for; he is flung aside, tossed far into a foreign country.
 29 O land, O land, O land, listen to the word of the Eternal!—
 30 "Set this man down as childless, for never shall a son of his attain to sit on David's throne or rule in Judah again."
 23 Woe to rulers who ruin and scatter the flock that was theirs to shepherd!
 2 This therefore is the Eternal's sentence on the rulers who are over his flock:
 "You scattered my flock and drove them away, you took no care of them; so I will take care to punish you for the evil you have done.
 3 I will gather all that is left of my flock from every land where I have driven them, I will bring them back to their folds, and they shall be fruitful and multiply;
 4 over them I will put rulers, to shepherd them, and they shall be no longer scared or startled or dismayed.

The day comes, the Eternal 5 promises, when I raise up a true scion of David, to reign both royally and skilfully, to enforce law and justice in the land; under him Judah shall be safe, 6 and Israel live secure, and this shall be his title, 'The Eternal our champion.'

So the day will come, the 7 Eternal declares, when men no longer say, 'As surely as the Eternal lives, who brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt!' but, 'As surely as the 8 Eternal lives, who brought the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country!'—and from every country where I drove them; they shall dwell in their own land."

* * *

On the prophets. 9
 My heart is broken within me, my limbs are all relaxed, I feel like a drunken man, like a man overcome by wine, at the thought of the Eternal and his glorious majesty!
 For the land is full of faithless 10 men, running an evil course, with might that is not right. Prophet and priest are alike 11 profane; and, says the Eternal, "even inside my fane I come upon their crimes. Therefore their path shall prove 12 to them a slippery place, they shall be driven along it in the dark to their downfall; for I will bring disaster on them, in their year of doom.

- 13 Sickening things have I seen
in Samaria's prophets;
they prophesied by Baal,
and misled my people Israel.
- 14 But horrible things have I seen
in the prophets of Jerusalem;
they are adulterers, they lie,
they abet evildoers,
till not a soul will repent;
they are all as bad as Sodom,
and the citizens bad as Gomorrah."
- 15 This therefore is the sentence
of the Lord of hosts upon the
prophets:
"I will feed them with bitter
wormwood,
and give them poisonous
drugs;
for the prophets of Jerusalem
have spread profanity
over the whole land."
- 16 This is the warning of the Lord
of hosts:
"Never listen to what the
prophets say;
they fill you up with idle
hopes,
they tell you fancies of their
own,
not anything the Eternal
says;
- 17 'All will be well,' they repeat,
to people who scorn what the
Eternal says;
'No harm will come to you,'
they tell
the folk who follow their own
stubborn minds.
- 18 Which of these prophets ever
saw
the council of the Eternal?
Which of them ever heard
or grasped a word of his?
- 21 I never sent the prophets,
yet they ran;
I never spoke to them,
and yet they prophesied.
- 22 If they had ever stood within
my council,
and heard a word of mine,
they would have made my people turn
from evil ways and evil deeds.
- Am I a God at hand, 23
and not a God far off?
Can any man conceal himself 24
out of my sight?
Do not I fill heaven and
earth?—
the Eternal asks.
I have heard what the prophets 25
say,
who prophesy falsely in my
name—
'I've had a dream,' they cry,
'I've had a dream.'
- Will they never give over, 26
these prophets of falsehood,
who utter their own illusions,
and would make my folk for- 27
get my name,
by the dreams they tell each
other,
as once their fathers forgot
me for Baal?
- If a prophet has had a dream, 28
then let him tell his dream;
but he who has a word of mine,
then let him tell it faithfully.
Why mix straw with wheat?
the Eternal asks.
- Is not my word like fire, 29
like a hammer that shatters
stone?
- Well then, the Eternal de- 30
clares, I am against the proph-
ets who pick up my words, each
from his fellow. I am against 31
the prophets who mouth the
prophets' formula about what
'the Eternal says.' I am against 32
the prophets who recount lying
dreams, leading my people
astray with their lies and their
empty pretensions, though I
never sent them, never com-
missioned them; they are no
help whatever to this people,
says the Eternal. When a lay- 33
man or a prophet or a priest
asks you, 'What is the burden

- of the Eternal's oracle?" tell them this from the Eternal: 'Burden! you are the burden, and I mean to throw you off.
- 34 Any prophet or priest or layman who talks of "the Eternal's oracle" or of "what the Eternal says," I will punish that man and his household.
- 35 No, this is what every man of you must say to his fellow, to his brother: "What is the Eternal's answer?" "What is the Eternal's message?" You must never again mention the Eternal's "burden." (A man's own word shall be the "burden" of his oracle!) If you dare to mention "the burden of the Eternal's oracle," though I have expressly told you never to mention it, then, the Eternal declares, I will lift you like a burden and throw you away, you and the city that I gave to you and your fathers, far away from me, and I will cover you with a lasting reproach and an unending disgrace, never to be forgotten."
- 24 It was after Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had carried off to exile at Babylon Jekoniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and the leading men of Judah, with the craftsmen and the joiners of Jerusalem, that the Eternal gave me a vision of two baskets of figs placed in front of the Eternal's temple.
- 2 One basket had very fine figs, as fine as first-ripe figs. The other basket had very poor figs, so poor that they were uneatable.
- 3 The Eternal said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" "Figs," I answered, "the fine figs very fine, the poor figs very poor, so poor that they are uneatable." Then the Eternal's word came to me: "This is what 5 the Eternal, the God of Israel, says: so will I favour, like these fine figs, the exiles from Judah whom I have deported to the land of the Chaldeans; I will 6 look to their welfare, I will bring them back to this land, I will build them up, instead of pulling them down, I will plant them, instead of pulling them up; I will give 7 them a heart to understand that I am the Eternal, and they shall be my people, I will be a God to them, when they return to me with all their heart. As 8 for the poor figs, so poor that they are uneatable—that is how I will treat Zedekiah king of Judah, with his leading men, and the survivors of Jerusalem who are left in this land, and those who reside in the land of Egypt; I will make them an 9 object of disgust to every kingdom in the world, a derision, a byword, a taunt, and a curse, wherever I drive them; also, I 10 will send the sword, famine, and pestilence among them, till they are consumed out of the land that I gave to them and to their fathers."
- The word that came to Jeremiah regarding all the people of 25 Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (the first year of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon), the message he delivered 2 to all the people of Judah and all the citizens of Jerusalem. "[For all these twenty-three 3 years, from the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, down to this day, I have been telling you, earnestly and urgently, to give up your 5 evil courses, every one of you,

- and your evil conduct, that you may remain in the land that the Eternal gave to you and to
 6 your fathers for all time, instead of wandering away to serve and worship foreign gods, angering the Eternal with your manufactured idols—only to
 7 your own hurt. But you would
 8 not listen to me. This therefore is the sentence of the Lord of hosts: Since you have not
 9 listened to my words,]) I am sending for a race from the north and bringing it down upon this land, upon its inhabitants and upon all the surrounding nations. I will exterminate them, I will make them a lasting desolation, a
 10 scorn and horror, I will banish from them the sound of mirth and gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the bride, the sound of millstones and the
 11 light of a lamp. The whole of this country shall be a waste and a horror [and for seventy years the people shall be subject to the king of Babylon.
 12 However, when the seventy years are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation for their guilt, says the Eternal, and I will make the land of the Chaldeans desolate
 13 for all time. I will inflict on that land all the threats I have uttered against it, all the threats which Jeremiah has prophesied against all the nations, and which are written in this book.
 14 Many a nation, many a great king, shall make slaves of them, yes even of them; but I will pay them back for what they have
 15 done, as they deserve]].” For this is what the Eternal, the God of Israel, said to me: “Take this wine-cup of wrath that I hand to you, and hold it to the
 lips of all the nations to whom I send you, till they drink it 16
 and stagger madly to and fro.” [So I took the cup from 17
 the hand of the Eternal and held it to the lips of all the nations to whom the Eternal had sent me—to Jerusalem, to 18
 Judah with its towns, its kings and leading men (to render them a desolation, a horror, a derision, and a curse, as at the present day), to the Pharaoh, 19
 king of Egypt, his courtiers, princes, and his people, and 20
 all the foreign population of Egypt, to all the kings of the land of Uz, to all the kings of the land of the Philistines—that is, of Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the survivors in Ashdod, to 21
 Edom, Moab, and the Ammonites, to all the kings of Tyre, and of Sidon, to the 22
 kings of the coast-land overseas, to Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all the crop-haired clans, to all 23
 the nomad kings, to all the kings of Zimri, Elam, and Media, to all the kings of the 24
 north, far and near, one after another, to all kingdoms on the face of the earth; and after them the king of Babylon shall 25
 drink]]. “Tell them this is what the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, says: ‘Drink yourselves drunk till you tumble in your vomit, never to rise again—under the sword I am sending among you.’ And if they decline to drink the cup you 26
 hand to them, tell them this is what the Lord of hosts says: ‘Drink you must! I begin by 27
 inflicting evil on the city that belongs to me, and are you to get off unpunished? You shall not go unpunished, for I am summoning a sword to fall on all the inhabitants of 28
 29

- the world, says the Lord of hosts.'
- 30 So prophesy all this against them; tell them:
The Eternal will roar from on high,
from his sacred abode he will utter a cry,
thundering at his own home-
stead,
shouting at all dwellers upon earth,
as men shout loudly at the vintage.
- 31 The din resounds to the world's end,
for the Eternal arraigns the nations.
he indicts all mankind,
and puts the wicked to the sword.
- 32 The Lord of hosts declares:
from race to race calamity extends,
a mighty storm is stirring
from the earth's far ends."
- 33 Then shall the victims of the Eternal lie
all over earth, from end to end,
like dung on the face of the ground,
unwailed, ungathered, un-
buried.
- 34 Howl and cry, you rulers,
roll in the ashes, you lords of the flock!
'Tis high time you were slain,
and slain you shall be, falling
like choice lambs.
- 35 No escape for the rulers,
no way for the lords of the flock to flee!
- 36 Hark to the shriek of the rulers,
the howl from the lords of the flock!
The Eternal is wasting their pasture.
- 37 No sound now in the peaceful meadows,
so fierce the Eternal's fury!
- The very lions leave their lairs, 38
for the land is now a desert
under the stress of the sword,
the furious wrath of the
Eternal.
- At the beginning of the reign 26
of Johoiakim the son of Josiah,
king of Judah, this message
came from the Eternal. "Here 2
is what the Eternal says: Stand
in the court of the Eternal's
temple, and tell all the citizens
of Judah who come to worship
in the Eternal's temple all the
words that I order you to utter.
Do not keep back a single word;
perhaps they will listen and 3
turn, each man, from his evil
course, so that I may relent
and withhold the evil which I
plan to inflict upon them for
their evil deeds. 'Tell them that 4
this is the Eternal's message:
'If you will not listen to me, if
you will not follow the direc-
tions that I put before you, if 5
you will not listen to the words
of my servants the prophets,
whom I send to you eagerly and
earnestly (though you have not
listened to them), then I will 6
lay this temple low like Shilo,
and make this city a byword
for the curses of every nation
upon earth.' " Now the priests 7
and the prophets, as well as all
the people, heard Jeremiah say-
ing this in the Eternal's temple.
So when Jeremiah had finished 8
saying all that the Eternal had
ordered him to say to all the
people, the priests and the
prophets seized him. "You
must die," they said; "what do 9
you mean by prophesying in the
Eternal's name that this tem-
ple shall become like Shilo and
that this city is to be desolate
and untenanted?" The people
were all swarming round Jere-

miah in the Eternal's temple;
 10 and when the authorities of Judah heard of it, they came up to the Eternal's temple from the royal palace, and seated themselves at the entrance of the new gate into the Eternal's
 11 temple. Then the priests and the prophets said to the authorities and to all the people, "This fellow deserves to die; he has been prophesying against this city—you have heard him
 12 with your own ears!" But Jeremiah said to the authorities and to all the people, "It was the Eternal who sent me to prophesy against this temple and this city every word you have just
 13 heard. Now then, amend your ways and deeds, obey the voice of the Eternal your God, and the Eternal will relent, he will withhold the evil he has pronounced against you. As for
 14 myself, I am in your power; you can do with me as you
 15 think right and good. Only, be sure of this, that if you put me to death, you bring the guilt of innocent blood upon yourselves and this city and its citizens; for it is a fact that the Eternal did send me to say all this in
 16 your hearing." So the authorities and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, "This man does not deserve to die; he has been speaking to us in the name of the Eternal our
 17 God." Some of the older inhabitants also rose to their feet and said to all the popular assembly, "When Micah of Moresheth prophesied during the reign of Hezekiah king of Judah, he told all the people of Judah that this was the word of the Lord of hosts:
 18 Sion shall be ploughed up like a field,

Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,
 the temple-hill a mere wooded height.

Did king Hezekiah or the people of Judah ever put him to death? Did they not reverently appease the Eternal, till the Eternal relented and withheld the evil he had pronounced against them? But as for us, we are about to wreak evil on ourselves!"

There was another man who prophesied in the name of the Eternal, Uriah the son of Shemaiah, belonging to Kiriath-jeârim; he too prophesied against this city and this land, just as Jeremiah did. When
 21 king Jehoiakim and all the authorities heard what he said, the king tried to murder him; but Uriah heard of it and fled in fear, away to Egypt. So
 22 king Jehoiakim sent El-nathan the son of Achbor, with some others, to Egypt; they brought
 23 Uriah from Egypt to king Jehoiakim, who had him slain with the sword and his body flung into the public grave. Ahikam the son of Shaphan,
 24 however, came to the help of Jeremiah, and prevented him from being handed over to the people and killed.

At the beginning of the reign
 27 of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the fifth month of the fourth year of his reign, this message came from the Eternal to Jeremiah. "The
 2 Eternal's order to Jeremiah: Make a yoke of thongs and bars and put it on your neck; then send a message to the
 3 kings of Edom, Moab, and the Ammonites, to the king of Tyre and to the king of Sidon, by

the messengers who have come from them to Zedekiah, king of Judah, at Jerusalem. Bid them tell their masters this. 'Here is what the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, says: Tell your masters that it is I who made the earth, with all the men and beasts upon the surface of the earth, by my great power and outstretched arm. I give it to anyone whom I choose. I have now given all these lands into the hand of my servant Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon; I have given him even the wild beasts for his service. [[All nations shall serve him and his son and his grandson, till the time comes round for his own land; and then many a nation and many a great king shall make him a slave.]] Any nation or kingdom that will not put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, I will punish that nation, says the Eternal, with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence, till I bring it under his sway. Pay you no heed to your prophets and seers and dreamers and soothsayers and sorcerers, who tell you that you will not be subject to the king of Babylon. It is a lie that they prophesy to you—it will only banish you far from your land. Whereas any nation that puts its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serves him, I will let that nation stay on in its own land, says the Eternal; they shall till the land and live in it.'"

12 Jeremiah gave the very same message to Zedekiah, king of Judah. "Put your neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon," he said; "serve him and his people, and you shall live.

Why should you and your people die by the sword and the famine and the pestilence with which the Eternal has threatened any nation that will not serve the king of Babylon? Never heed what the prophets say, when they tell you not to be subject to the king of Babylon. It is a lie that they prophesy to you. I never sent them, says the Eternal, yet they prophesy falsely in my name; it will only end in your being driven out to perish, you and the prophets who prophesy to you."

To the priests and all the people Jeremiah also spoke as follows: "This is the Eternal's order: never heed what your prophets say when they tell you that the vessels of the Eternal's temple are soon to be brought back from Babylon. It is a lie that they are prophesying to you. If they are really prophets, if they have the Eternal's word, let them plead with the Lord of hosts that the vessels which are left in the temple of the Eternal and in the palace of the king of Judah and in Jerusalem may not be taken to Babylon. As for [[the columns and the tank and the pedestals and]] the rest of the vessels left in this city, which Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon did not remove when he bore off to exile Jekoniah [[the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah]] from Jerusalem [[to Babylon, with all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem]], this is what the Lord [[of hosts, the God of Israel,]] says [[with regard to the vessels that remain in the temple of the Eternal, in the palace of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem]]: "They shall be taken to Babylon [[and re-

- main there till the day I remember them]], says the Eternal [[: then I will bring them up and restore them to this place]].’ ”
- 28 Then Hanani^{ah} the prophet, the son of Azzur, a Gibeonite, declared to me in presence of the priests and of all the people in the temple of the Eternal,
- 2 “This is what the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, says: ‘I have broken the yoke of the king of
- 3 Babylon; within two years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the Eternal’s temple that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this
- 4 place to Babylon; I will also bring back to this place Jekonia^h the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, with all the exiles of Judah who have gone to Babylon, says the Eternal; for I will break the yoke of the king of
- 5 Babylon!’ ” Then the prophet Jeremiah addressed the prophet Hanani^{ah} in presence of the priests and of all the people who were standing in the temple
- 6 of the Eternal. “Amen,” said the prophet Jeremiah, “may the Eternal do so! May the Eternal fulfil your prophecy, by bringing back the vessels of the Eternal’s temple and all the exiles from Babylon to this
- 7 place! Only, I would have you listen to what I am going to say in your hearing and in the
- 8 hearing of all the people. The prophets of old, who lived before me and before you, prophesied war when they prophesied against many countries and
- 9 great kingdoms. When a prophet prophesies peace, it is only after his word comes true that he is known to have been really sent by the Eternal.”
- 10 Then the prophet Hanani^{ah}, taking the yoke from the prophet Jeremiah’s neck, broke it and declared in presence of all the people, “This is the Eternal’s word: ‘Thus will I break the yoke of the king of Babylon off the necks of all the nations.’ ” The prophet Jeremiah went away. It was after the prophet Hanani^{ah} had broken the yoke from the prophet Jeremiah’s neck, that this message came from the Eternal to Jeremiah: “Go and tell Hanani^{ah} that this is the Eternal’s message: ‘The wooden yoke you have broken, but I will replace it with an iron yoke. For this is what the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel says: It will be an iron yoke that I lay on the necks of all these nations, a yoke of slavery to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; serve him they shall.’ ” Then said the prophet Jeremiah to the prophet Hanani^{ah}, “Listen, Hanani^{ah}! The Eternal never sent you; you are making this people rely on what is false. Therefore the Eternal’s sentence is: ‘I will send you—off the face of the earth! This very year you are to die, for having taught disloyalty to the Eternal.’ ” And that very year, in the seventh month, the prophet Hanani^{ah} did die.
- Here are the terms of the letter sent from Jerusalem by the prophet Jeremiah to the sheikhs in exile, to the priests, the prophets, and all the laity who had been carried off from Jerusalem to exile at Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar (this was after the surrender of king Jekonia^h and the queen-mother, the eunuchs, the authorities of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and

- 3 the joiners). The letter was conveyed by Eleasah the son of Shaphan, and by Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, who were sent on a mission to Babylon by Zedekiah king of Judah, to Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon. "This is the message of the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have deported from Jerusalem to Babylon: 'Build houses and live in them, plant gardens and eat their produce, marry wives and bring up families, get wives for your sons and husbands for your daughters, and multiply where you are—never let your numbers diminish. Do your best for the welfare of the country where I have sent you to be exiles; pray to the Eternal for it, since your welfare lies in its welfare.' This is the message of the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Never let yourselves be deceived by the prophets and the seers among you, never listen to their dreams; for they are prophesying falsely to you in my name—I never sent them,' says the Eternal. This is what the Eternal says: 'As soon as Babylon's seventy years are over, I will visit you and carry out my promise to you, by bringing you back here. For I keep in mind my purpose for you, a purpose of weal, not of woe, to let you have hope for the future; pray to me, and I will answer you; seek me, and you shall find me; when you seek for me with all your heart, I will reveal myself to you,' says the Eternal. [[And I will restore your fortunes and collect you from all the nations and countries where I have deported you, says the Eternal, and bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.]] [[For this is the Eternal's sentence on the king who is seated upon David's throne and on all the people staying in this city—those kinsfolk of yours who have not accompanied you into exile. This is what the Lord of hosts says: I will send the sword, famine, and pestilence among them, and make them like horrible figs, so bad that they are uneatable; I will hunt them down with sword, famine, and pestilence, and turn them into a horror among all the kingdoms of the world, to be execrated and stared at and hissed and derided among all the nations wherever I deport them, because they would not listen to what I said (the Eternal declares), to the words I sent them earnestly and urgently by my servants the prophets—but listen they would not, says the Eternal! So listen you to what the Eternal says, all you exiles whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon.]] But, you say, we have prophets of our own from the Eternal in Babylon? Well, here is what the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, has to say about Ahab the son of Kolaiah and Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, who are prophesying falsely to you in my name: 'I will hand them over to Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, to be slain before your eyes; and when any of the exiles of Judah in Babylon curse, it will be in terms of their doom, saying, "The Eternal treat you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted alive in the fire!" —for behaving impiously in Israel, debauching the wives of

other men, and speaking falsely in my name, without any authority from me. I know it, the Eternal declares, I witnessed it.”

- 24 Shemaiah of Nehēlam also
 25 sent a letter on his own account to Zephaniah the priest, the
 26 son of Maaseiah. “The Eternal,” he wrote, “has made you priest in place of Jehoiada, to take charge of the Eternal’s temple, and you ought to put every madman who poses as a prophet into the stocks and the
 27 iron collar. Why then have you not reprimanded Jeremiah of Anāthoth? He has been posing to you as a prophet. He
 28 has sent word to me in Babylon that ‘the exile will be long,’ and that we are to ‘build houses and live in them, and plant gardens and eat their produce.’”
 29 The priest Zephaniah read this
 30 letter to Jeremiah. Then this word of the Eternal came to
 31 Jeremiah: “Send all the exiles this sentence of the Eternal upon Shemaiah of Nehēlam. ‘Since Shemaiah has been prophesying to you, although I never sent him, and since he has led you to believe in a lie, therefore (the Eternal declares)
 32 I will punish Shemaiah and his descendants; he shall have no descendant among you who lives to see the happiness I am about to bring to my people (says the Eternal), for he has spoken disloyally against the Eternal.’”
 30 The message that came from
 2 the Eternal to Jeremiah. “These are the orders of the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Write down in a book every word I
 3 have spoken to you, for the day is coming, the Eternal declares, when I will restore the

fortunes of my people Israel and Judah, and bring them back to possess the land that I gave to their fathers.”

Here are the words spoken by 4 the Eternal with regard to Israel and Judah:

We have heard a scream of ter- 5 ror:

all is alarm and unrest.

Ask now and inquire, 6

if a man is ever with child;

for why do I see every man pressing his hands on his loins,

and why is every face turned to a deadly pallor?

Ah, this is an awful Day! 7

what day is like it?—

an hour of anguish for Jacob; but he shall come through it.

“For on this Day, says the 8 Lord of hosts,

I will break the yoke from their neck,

and snap their thongs;

they shall serve foreigners no 9 more,

but serve their God, the Eternal,

and their Davidic king,

whom I will raise up for them.

[[Fear not then, my servant 10 Jacob,

O Israel, be not dismayed;

I will bring you safe from afar,

and your race from the land of their exile;

Jacob again shall have quiet and ease,

with none to disturb him.

For I am with you, the Eternal 11 promises,

to succour you;

I will put an end to all the nations,

where I scattered you,

but I will not put an end to you;

- I will chastise you, but not too hard,
though I must punish you.]]”
- 12 For this is the Eternal's word:
“Your hurt is beyond healing,
your wound is sore;
13 there is none to bandage you,
no salve for your bruise;
14 all your allies have forgotten you,
they care nothing for you;
I wounded you as a foe wounds,
with cruel punishment.
- 15 Why wail over your hurt,
that your pain is past all healing?
I did it all to you
for your guilt profound,
for your sins that so abound.
- 16 Yet all who devour you shall be devoured,
your foes shall all be exiled,
those who despoil you shall themselves be spoiled,
your plunderers—I will have them plundered.
- 17 For I will give you health again,
and heal your wounds, the Eternal promises—
you whom the hunters called an outcast,
“Our quarry! No one cares for her!”
- 18 This is the Eternal's word:
“Jacob's exiles I will restore,
I will take pity on his homes;
towns shall be built on their own sites,
and buildings stand where once they stood;
- 19 from them shall chants of praise resound,
the songs of folk delighted.
I will increase them, and they shall abound,
they shall be honoured and not slighted;
- 20 their sons shall thrive as in the days of old,
and I will care for their community,
and punish any who oppress them.
- Their prince shall be one of 21 themselves,
their ruler shall be native-born;
I will grant him access to myself,
and he shall enter my presence—
for how else could one dare to enter my presence?” says the Eternal.
- [[Here is the Eternal's storm of 23 fury,
a sweeping cyclone,
bursting on sinful heads!
Till he has done what he de- 24 signed,
till he has carried out his mind,
the Eternal calls not back his anger fierce—
as, at the consummation, you shall find.]]
- “Then,” the Eternal promises, 31
“I will be God to all the families of Israel,
and they shall be my people.”
- For this is the Eternal's prom- 2 ise:
“Those who survive the sword
shall find grace in the dungeon.”
- When Israel yearned for rest,
then in a far land the Eternal 3 appeared,
saying, “From of old I love you,
so now I draw you gently home.
- Once more I will settle you, 4
O maiden Israel;
once more you shall take the tambourine
and dance merrily;
once more you shall plant vines 5 on Samaria's slopes.

- and those who plant shall enjoy
the grapes
and praise the Eternal."
- 6 [[Yes, the day will come when
vintagers
on the heights of Ephraim
cry,
"Let us rise and go to Sion,
to the Eternal, our own
God!"]]
- 7 For this is the Eternal's word
to Jacob:
"Shout aloud on the hill-tops,
ring out your praises, cry,
"The Eternal has saved his peo-
ple,
the remnant of Israel!"
- 8 I am bringing them out of the
north-land,
gathering them from the ends
of the earth;
the blind and the lame are
among them,
women with child and women
in travail—
they come back, a great com-
pany.
- 9 They went away in tears,
but I lead them back con-
soled.
I guide them to streams of
water.
by smooth roads where they
cannot stumble;
for to Israel I am a father.
and Ephraim is my first-born
son."
- 10 Listen to the Eternal's word, ye
nations,
spread the news to far-off
isles;
"He who scattered Israel gath-
ers them,
and tends them as a shepherd
tends his flock.
- 11 For the Eternal has set Jacob
free,
and rescued him from a
stronger power.
- 12 So they shall gather singing on
the heights of Sion,
all radiant over the Eternal's
bounty,
yearlings of sheep and cattle,
corn, oil, and wine;
for them life shall be like a
watered garden,
no longer shall they pine.
The girls shall delight in dan- 13
cing,
young men and old shall be
merry;
I will change their grief to glad-
ness,
consoling, cheering them after
their sorrow;
I will heap rich food on their 14
priests,
and satisfy my people with
my bounty.
- I have indeed heard Ephraim 18
bemoaning thus his plight;
"Under thy chastening I have
been chastened,
like an unbroken colt;
bring me back, let me return,
for thou art the Eternal, my
God.
My exile led me to repent; 19
when I was chastened, I
smote my breast;
I sink in shame under the pen-
alty
for what I did in youth.'
Is it because Ephraim is my 20
favourite son,
my darling child,
that whenever I must punish
him,
my heart dwells on him still?
Yes, my pity stirs for him—
I must have mercy on him!
- Put up waymarks, set up guide- 21
posts,
bethink you of the highroad,
by which you travelled hence.
Come back by it, O maiden Is-
rael,
come back to your towns
here.

- 22 How long will you hesitate,
 O erring daughter?
 Why, the Eternal makes a new
 thing upon earth;
 frail woman becomes man-
 ly!"
- 23 The Lord of hosts, the God of
 Israel, says:
 "When I restore their fortunes,
 then in Judah's land and
 towns
 once more they shall use this
 word,
 'The Eternal bless you, home
 of goodness,
 sacred heights!'"
- 24 There, in Judah and in all her
 townships,
 they shall live together,
 the men who plough the land,
 the herdsmen wandering with
 their flocks;
- 25 for richly I refresh the weary
 life
 and I replenish everyone who
 pines."
- 26 [[Here I awoke, I opened wide
 my eyes—
 this was a pretty dream!]]
- 27 "A day comes, the Eternal
 promises,
 when I will sow Israel and
 Judah
 with the seed of men and the
 seed of cattle;
- 28 as once I was alert to tear them
 up and harm them,
 so I will be alert to set them
 up and plant them.
- 29 Then they shall say no more,
 'The fathers ate sour grapes,
 and the children's teeth are on
 edge';
- 30 but each shall die for his own
 sin,
 and he who eats the sour
 grapes,
 his own teeth shall be set on
 edge.
- A day comes, the Eternal 31
 promises,
 when I make a fresh compact
 with all Israel—
 not like the compact I once 32
 made with their fathers,
 the day I took them by the
 hand
 to bring them out of Egypt's
 land,
 the compact that they broke,
 till I had to reject them.
- No, this is the compact I make 33
 with Israel in the end;
 I will put my law within them,
 and write it on their hearts;
 and I will be a God to them,
 and they to me a people;
 no longer shall they have to 34
 teach
 their fellows, each instructing
 each
 how to know the Eternal; for
 they all
 shall know me, both the great
 and small;
- for I will pardon their offences,
 their sin I never will recall.
 This is the word of the Eter- 35
 nal, who sets the sun to light
 the day and the moon and stars
 to light the night, who stirs
 the sea up till its waters roar
 (his name, the Lord of hosts):
 only when this fixed order van- 36
 ishes from my sight, says the
 Eternal, shall the race of Israel
 cease to be a nation before me
 for all time. This is the Eter- 37
 nal's word: only when heaven
 above can be measured and the
 foundations of the earth below
 laid bare, will I ever cast off the
 race of Israel for all that they
 have done, says the Eternal.
- A day comes, the Eternal de- 38
 clares, when the Eternal will
 have the city rebuilt from the
 tower of Hananel to the gate
 at the corner, when the line of 39

- the wall shall run straight south to the hill of Gareb and then
 40 turn round to Goah. The very valley of the dead, where the altar-refuse is thrown, with the fields as far as the ravine of Kidron, as far as the corner of the Horse-gate eastward, shall all be sacred to the Eternal; never again shall they be torn up or demolished."
- 32 The message that came from the Eternal to Jeremiah in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah (the eighteenth year of
 2 Nebuchadrezzar), just when the king of Babylon's army was besieging Jerusalem. Jeremiah the prophet was a prisoner in the guard-house of the royal palace
 3 (for Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him, saying, "What do you mean by prophesying that the Eternal declares, 'I will hand over this city to the king of Babylon, and he shall capture
 4 it? Nor shall Zedekiah king of Judah make his escape from the Chaldeans; he shall certainly be given up to the king of Babylon, and speak to him personally and see him face to face;
 5 the king shall conduct Zedekiah to Babylon, and there he shall remain [till I remember him, says the Eternal; though you fight the Chaldeans, you shall
 6 not succeed]'"). This word from the Eternal came to Jeremiah:
 7 "Hanamél the son of your uncle is coming to ask you to buy his land at Anáthoth, since you have a right to the
 8 first offer of it." So Hanamél the son of my uncle came to me in the guard-house, as the Eternal had predicted. He said, "Pray buy my land at Anáthoth; you are the lawful heir, you have a right to the first
 offer; buy it for yourself."
 (Then I realized that the word was really the Eternal's.) I 9
 bought the land at Anáthoth from Hanamél the son of my uncle, paying him down two pounds seven shillings in silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, had 10
 it witnessed, and paid down the money in full. Then I took the 11
 purchase deeds, the sealed document and the covering envelope, and handed them to Baruch the 12
 son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in presence of Hanamél the son of my uncle, in presence of the witnesses who had signed the purchase deeds, and in presence of all the Jews who were seated in the guard-house. In 13
 their presence I gave this charge to Baruch: "These are the 14
 orders of the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel—take these purchase-deeds, the sealed document and the covering envelope, and place them in an earthen jar, that they may last 15
 for many a long day. For, says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, the time will come when houses and lands and vineyards shall again be bought in this country." After I handed the 16
 purchase-deeds to Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed thus to the Eternal: "[Ah! Lord Eternal, 17
 thou hast made heaven and earth by thy great power and outstretched arm—nothing is too hard for thee. Thou 18
 showest kindness to thousands, and thou bringest the guilt of fathers home to their children after them, thou great and mighty God, great in counsel 19
 and mighty in action, whose eyes are open to all the ways of men, rewarding every man as he has lived, and as his deeds deserve. In Egypt's land, as ever 20

since, thou didst provide signal
deeds of awe, both for Israel
and for outsiders; thou didst
make thyself a name that is still
21 remembered. From Egypt's
land thou didst bring out thy
people Israel with signal deeds
of awe, by might and main.
22 spreading terror around: thou
gavest them this land which
thou hadst sworn to their
fathers to give them, a land
abounding in milk and honey;
23 they entered in and took pos-
session of it, but they would not
listen to thy voice nor follow
thy directions; they have not
done a thing thou didst com-
mand them; and so thou hast
made all this evil befall them.]]
24 Here are siege-mounds for
storming the city, and under the
sword, the famine, and the pesti-
lence, the city is sure to fall
into the hands of the Chaldean
besiegers! Thy threat has been
25 fulfilled, as thou seest. And it
was thou, O Lord Eternal, who
didst tell me to buy the land
for money: I had the deeds
written and sealed and wit-
nessed, and here is the city
falling into the hands of the
26 Chaldeans!" Then this word
from the Eternal came to me:
27 "I am the Eternal, God over all
men; is anything too hard for
28 me? [[I am indeed handing this
city over to the Chaldeans and
to Nebuchadrezzar king of
Babylon, who is to capture it.
29 The Chaldean besiegers shall
come and set fire to this city
and burn it, burning up the
houses on whose roofs sacrifice
was offered to Baal and liba-
tions poured out in honour of
foreign gods—in order to spite
30 me! For ever since they were
young, the Israelites and the
Judahites have done nothing but

evil in my sight; ever since the 31
day it was built, down to this
day, this city has been provok-
ing me to remove it in anger and
fury from my presence, for all 32
the evil that the Israelites and
the Judahites have done to
spite me—their selves, their
kings, their authorities, their
priests, their prophets, the men
of Judah, and the citizens of
Jerusalem. They have turned 33
their backs to me, not their
faces; though I taught them
earnestly and urgently, they
would not listen and be in-
structed. They have defiled 34
the very house that belongs to
me, by putting their detestable
idols inside it; and they have 35
erected shrines to Baal, in the
valley belonging to the son of
Hinnom, for burning alive their
sons and daughters to Molek—
a thing I never ordered, a thing
that never entered my mind.
this abominable practice that
led Judah into crime.

This therefore is the word of 36
the Eternal, the God of Israel,
regarding this city. You say,
it is falling into the hands of the
king of Babylon, under the
sword, the famine, and the pes-
tilence? But the Eternal de-
clares, as surely as I have
brought all this grave evil on
the people, so surely will I bring
upon them all the good I prom-
ise. I will gather them from 37
all the countries where I drove
them in my anger and fury and
fierce wrath, and bring them
back to this place, where I will
let them live secure; they shall 38
be my people and I will be their
God. I will give them a dif- 39
ferent life, within and without,
a life of lasting reverence for me,
to the good of themselves and of
their children after them; I will 40

- make a lasting compact with them, never to leave off doing them good, and I will put reverence for myself in their hearts, that they may never leave me;
- 41 yes, I will rejoice over them and settle them in this land faithfully, with all my heart and
- 43 soul.]] In this country that you call desolate, stripped of men and cattle, handed over to the Chaldeans, lands shall again be
- 44 bought; men shall buy lands for money, deeds shall be subscribed and sealed and witnessed, both in the district of Benjamin and in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem and in the townships of Judah, of the highlands, of the lowlands, and of the south. For I will restore their fortunes, the Eternal promises."
- 33 When Jeremiah was still a prisoner in the guard-house, a second message came to him
- 2 from the Eternal. "[[This is the word of the Eternal who made the earth and formed it to stand fast—the Eternal is his name:
- 3 Call to me, and I will answer by revealing what is hard and hidden, what you do not know!]]
- 4 This is the word of the Eternal, the God of Israel, regarding the houses of this city and the royal palaces, which have been broken up to form a barricade against the siege-works and the
- 5 sword. The Chaldeans are coming to fight and to fill them with the corpses of those whom I slay in my anger and fury, men whose wickedness has made me withdraw my favour
- 6 from this city. Yet I will cure the city's wounds, I will heal her, I will let the people see a
- 7 rich and stable peace. I will restore the fortunes of Judah and Israel, and set them up as they were at first. I will cleanse
- 8 them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. The city shall
- 9 bring me joy and praise and glory, while all nations of the world, when they hear of all the good I am doing her, shall tremble in awe at all the good and the welfare I provide for her."
- This is the Eternal's word: 10
- "In this place that you call desolate, stripped of men and cattle, in the townships of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, stripped of
- 11 men and cattle, the sound of mirth and gladness shall again be heard, the voice of bridegroom and bride, the voice of those who bring their thank-offerings into the Eternal's temple, singing,
- 'Give thanks to the Lord of hosts,
- for the Eternal is good, for his kindness never fails.'
- For I will restore the fortunes of the land, says the Eternal, as at the first. This is the word of
- 12 the Lord of hosts: In this place so desolate, stripped of men and cattle, and in all its townships, there shall again be homesteads of shepherds, with flocks reclining beside them; in the town-
- 13 ships of the highlands, the lowlands, and the south, in the district of Benjamin, in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem, and in the townships of Judah, flocks shall once more file past to be counted up, the Eternal promises.
- A day comes, the Eternal 14
- promises, when I shall carry out my gracious purpose for the

house of Israel and the house
 15 of Judah. In those days and at
 that time,
 I raise up a true scion of
 David,
 to enforce law and justice in
 the land;
 16 in those days Judah shall be
 safe,
 and Jerusalem live secure,
 and this shall be her title,
 "The Eternal our champion."
 17 For this is the Eternal's
 promise: A Davidic king shall
 never be lacking to sit upon the
 18 throne of Israel, nor shall the
 Levitical priests ever lack a man
 to offer burnt-offerings in my
 presence or to burn oblations or
 19 to offer sacrifice." This mes-
 sage also came from the Eternal
 20 to Jeremiah: "This is what the
 Eternal says: If you could
 break my compact with day
 and night, so that day and night
 21 should not come round in their
 appointed order, then my com-
 pact could be broken with my
 servant David, and a son of his
 might fail to sit upon his throne;
 or my compact with the Levit-
 22 ical priests my ministers might
 be broken. I will make the race
 of my servant David and of the
 Levites who minister to me as
 numberless as the stars in
 heaven, as measureless as the
 23 sands of the sea." This mes-
 sage also came from the Eternal
 24 to Jeremiah: "Have you not
 noticed what this people are
 saying? They say that the
 Eternal has cast off his two
 chosen families; they say he so
 despises his people that he no
 longer counts it a nation at all.
 25 What the Eternal says is this:
 'As surely as I created day and
 night and fixed the frame of
 26 heaven and earth, so surely will
 I never cast off the race of my

servant David, or fail to choose
 descendants of his to rule the
 race of Abraham, Isaac, and
 Jacob; for I will restore their
 fortunes, in pity for them.' "

This message came from the 34
 Eternal to Jeremiah, when Neb-
 uchadrezzar the king of Baby-
 lon and all his army, with all
 the realms and races of the
 world under his sway, were at-
 tacking Jerusalem and all the
 towns of Judah. "This is what 2
 the Eternal, the God of Israel,
 says: Go to Zedekiah the king
 of Judah and tell him that this
 is the Eternal's word: 'I am
 handing this city over to the
 king of Babylon, who shall
 burn it up; you cannot make 3
 your escape from him, you will
 certainly be captured and put
 into his hands; you will have to
 face the king of Babylon and
 speak to him in person, and to
 Babylon you must go. But 4
 listen to what the Eternal says,
 O Zedekiah king of Judah. This
 is what the Eternal says regard-
 ing yourself: you are not to die 5
 by the sword, you are to die a
 peaceful death; and as spices
 were burned at the burial of
 your forefathers, the kings be-
 fore you, so shall they be burned
 for you, and the lament—"Alas
 for my lord!"—shall rise for
 you. I have said the word, the
 Eternal declares.'" So Jere- 6
 miah gave this message to Zede-
 kiah the king of Judah in Jeru-
 salem, when the king of Baby- 7
 lon's army was attacking Jeru-
 salem, Lakhish, and Azekah—
 the only fortified towns of Judah
 that were left.

The message that came from 8
 the Eternal to Jeremiah, after
 king Zedekiah had made a com-
 pact with all the people in Jeru-

salem that freedom was to be
 9 proclaimed—every man to set
 free his Hebrew slaves, male or
 female, so that no Jew or Jewess
 should be a slave any longer.
 10 But although all the authorities
 and all the people agreed to the
 compact that everyone should set
 free his male and female slaves,
 11 they afterwards forced back into
 slavery the male and female
 slaves whom they had liberated.
 12 So this message came from the
 13 Eternal to Jeremiah: "Here is
 what the Eternal, the God of
 Israel, says: 'Whereas on the
 day that I brought your fathers
 out of Egypt's land, from that
 slave-pen, I made this compact
 14 with them that at the end of six
 years they were to release any
 fellow Hebrew who had been
 sold to them—at the end of six
 years' service they were to set
 him free (a compact of mine
 that your fathers would not
 15 obey or observe); and whereas
 you on the other hand have now
 done what I consider right, by
 proclaiming a general freedom,
 making a compact in my pres-
 ence, within the temple that
 16 belongs to me, and have then
 turned round and sullied my
 honour by forcing back into
 slavery, every one of you, the
 very male and female slaves
 whom you had liberated to go
 17 where they pleased; therefore,
 the Eternal declares, since you
 would not obey me and proclaim
 freedom, each to his brother and
 fellow, I now proclaim you free,
 says the Eternal—free to fall
 under the sword, the pestilence,
 and the famine! I will make
 your fate a terror to every king-
 18 dom upon earth. And as for the
 men who broke my compact,
 who did not carry out the terms
 of the compact that they made

in my presence when they
 passed between the pieces of the
 calf that they had cut in two,
 as for the authorities of Judah 19
 and the authorities of Jerusa-
 lem, the eunuchs, the priests,
 and all the laity, who passed
 between the pieces of the calf
 that they had cut in two, I will 20
 hand them over to their enemies,
 and their dead bodies shall be
 devoured by wild birds and wild
 beasts. Zedekiah king of Judah 21
 and his leading men I will hand
 over to their enemies, to the
 army of the king of Babylon
 which has retired from besieg-
 ing you; at my word of com- 22
 mand, says the Eternal, they
 shall return to the city, attack
 it and capture it and burn it up,
 and the towns of Judah I will
 make desolate and uninhab-
 ited.' "

A message that came from the 35
 Eternal to Jeremiah during the
 reign of Jehoiakim the son of
 Josiah, king of Judah: "Go to 2
 the clan of the Rechabites,
 speak to them, and bring them
 into one of the side-rooms in the
 temple of the Eternal, and offer
 them wine to drink." So I 3
 took Jaazaniah the son of Jer-
 emiah, and the grandson of Ha-
 bazziniah, with his brothers and
 all his sons and the whole clan
 of the Rechabites; I brought 4
 them into the temple of the
 Eternal, into the side-room be-
 longing to the son of Hanan the
 son of Gedaliah, a man of God;
 it was near the side-room of the
 authorities and above the side-
 room belonging to Maaseiah the
 son of Shallum, the warden of the 5
 Threshold. Then I put bowls
 full of wine and cups in front
 of the Rechabite clan, and told
 them to drink. But they said, 6

"We will drink no wine, for our ancestor Jonadab the son of Rechab gave us this order: 'Never drink any wine, neither
 7 you nor your sons; never build a house, never sow seed, never plant, never own a vineyard; live in tents all your days, so that you may live long on the earth where you are but passing guests.' And we have obeyed our ancestor Jonadab the son of Rechab in every whit; we have drunk no wine, neither we nor our wives nor our sons nor
 9 our daughters; we have built no houses to dwell in; we have neither vineyard nor field nor
 10 seed; we have lived in tents, obeying our ancestor Jonadab in every whit. It was only when
 11 Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon invaded the land, that we thought we had better go to Jerusalem in order to escape the Babylonian and the Aramean armies. That is why we are inside Jerusalem."
 12 Then the word of the Eternal came to Jeremiah. "This is what the Lord of hosts says: Go and say to the men of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem, 'Will this not teach you to obey my words?' says the Eternal.
 14 What Jonadab the son of Rechab told his followers, his command to drink no wine, has been kept; to this day they drink no wine, in obedience to their ancestor's command. But you have not listened to me, though I spoke to you earnestly
 15 and urgently. I sent all my servants the prophets to tell you that if you gave up your evil courses, every man of you, and mended your ways, and ceased to follow foreign gods in worship, then you would remain in the land that I have given to you and to your fathers. But

you would not attend, you would not listen to me. So, as
 16 the followers of Jonadab the son of Rechab have kept the command given them by their ancestor, while this people has
 17 not listened to me, the Eternal, the God of hosts, the God of Israel, declares: Now am I about to bring upon Judah and all the citizens of Jerusalem all the misery with which I threatened them; for I spoke to them but they would not listen, I called to them but they would not answer.'" But to the clan
 18 of the Rechabites Jeremiah said, "This is what the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, says: 'Since you have kept the command of your ancestor Jonadab and carried out all his injunctions and done all that he ordered you, the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, promises that
 19 Jonadab the son of Rechab shall never lack a man to serve me in my ministry.'"

In the fourth year of Jehoia- 36
 kim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this message came to Jeremiah from the Eternal: "Take a scroll and write upon
 2 it all that I have ever said to you against Jerusalem and Judah and all the nations, from the day when I first spoke to you in Josiah's reign down to this day. It may be that when the house
 3 of Judah hear all the evil that I intend for them, they will all give up their evil life and receive my pardon for their sin and guilt." So Jeremiah summoned
 4 Baruch the son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote upon a scroll, while Jeremiah dictated all that the Eternal had said to him. Then
 5 Jeremiah told Baruch, "I am debarred from entering the

- 6 temple; so you must go, and read aloud on a fast-day in the temple the words of the Eternal which you have written, to my dictation, on the scroll; the people are to hear them, and you must also read them aloud to the Judeans who come in
- 7 from the country towns. It may be that, with humble entreaties to the Eternal, they will all give up their evil life; for fierce is the anger and fury with which the Eternal has threatened this people."
- 45 This is what the prophet Jeremiah told Baruch the son of Neriah, after he had written on the scroll what Jeremiah dictated to him, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim king of Judah:
- 2 "Here is what the Eternal, the God of Israel, says to you, Baruch:
- 3 You say, 'Alas now, the Eternal adds anguish to my pain;
I am wearied out with moaning, rest I cannot!'
- 4 But the Eternal says, 'When I have to demolish what I built,
when I have to uproot what once I planted,
- 5 do you expect smooth fortunes for yourself?
Never expect that! Only, I promise you,
as I bring doom now upon all mankind,
I will let you escape with your own life,
wherever you must go.'"
- 36 Then Baruch the son of Neriah did all that the prophet Jeremiah had told him; he read the words of the Eternal from the scroll within the temple.
- 9 For when all the citizens of Jerusalem and all who came in to Jerusalem from the country towns of Judah were summoned to a fast before the Eternal in the ninth month of the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, Baruch 10 read aloud Jeremiah's message in the scroll to all the people, from the window of the side-room belonging to Gemariah the son of the secretary Shaphan, which was inside the upper court at the entrance to the new gate of the temple. Now when 11 Micaiah the son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, heard all the words of the Eternal read from the scroll, he walked down 12 to the palace, where he found all the authorities seated in the secretary's room—Elishama the secretary, Delaiah the son of Shemaiah, Elnathan the son of Achibor, Gemariah the son of Shaphan, Zedekiah the son of Hananiah, and all the others. After Micaiah had told them 13 all the words that he had heard Baruch read aloud from the scroll to the people, the author- 14 ities all sent Jehudi the son of Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Kushi, to tell Baruch to bring the scroll from which he had been reading aloud to the people. When Baruch appeared, scroll in hand, they told him to sit down and 15 read it aloud. So Baruch read it to them. When they had 16 heard it all, they turned to one another in alarm, whispering, "We must inform the king of all this." They asked Baruch, 17 "How did you come to write all this?" Baruch answered, 18 "Jeremiah dictated it all to me, and I wrote it down in ink upon the scroll." So the authorities 19 said to Baruch, "Go into hiding, you and Jeremiah; let no man know where you are." Then, 20

after depositing the scroll in the room of Elishama the secretary, they went to the king's private cabinet and told the king every-
 21 thing. The king sent Jehudi for the scroll; and when he brought it from the room of Elishama the secretary, he read it aloud to the king and all the author-
 22 ities in attendance. The king was in his winter apartments, with a brazier burning in front
 23 of him. Whenever Jehudi read three or four leaves, the king would slash them off with a pen-
 knife and fling them into the fire burning upon the brazier, till the whole of the scroll was
 24 consumed in the fire burning upon the brazier. There was no sense of horror, no tearing of clothes, on the part of the king or of any of his ministers who
 25 heard all these words, although Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah besought the king not to burn the scroll. However, he
 26 would not listen to them; he ordered the royal prince Jerahmeel, Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to fetch Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. But the Eternal hid them safe.
 27 After the king had burned the scroll containing the words which Baruch had written at Jeremiah's dictation, this word of the Eternal came to Jerem-
 28 iah: "Take once more another scroll, and write upon it all the words that were on the former scroll, which Jehoiakim the
 29 king of Judah burned. And give Jehoiakim king of Judah this message from the Eternal: 'You burned the scroll and asked me why I had written in it that the king of Babylon was coming to destroy this land and
 30 clear it of man and beast. Well,

here is what the Eternal has to say about Jehoiakim king of Judah: No descendant of his shall ever sit upon the throne of David, and his own corpse shall be flung out, exposed to the day's heat and the frost by night. I will punish him, his
 31 offspring, and his ministers, for their evil-doing; I will bring upon them and all the citizens of Jerusalem all the miseries with which I threatened them in vain.'" So Jeremiah took
 32 another scroll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote upon it, to Jeremiah's dictation, all the words of the book that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned, besides many other words of the same nature.

Zedekiah the son of Josiah 37 was reigning in place of Koniah the son of Jehoiakim, having been set upon the throne of Judah by Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon. Neither he nor his
 2 ministers nor the people of the country paid any heed to the messages of the Eternal delivered by the prophet Jeremiah. However, when the Pharaoh's
 5 army had set out from Egypt, and when news of this led the Chaldeans to abandon their siege of Jerusalem, king Zedekiah sent
 3 Jehukal the son of Shelemiah and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest to ask Jeremiah to pray for them to the Eternal
 4 their God, (Jeremiah was moving in and out among the people; he had not yet been imprisoned). Then this word came from the
 6 Eternal to Jeremiah: "The
 7 Eternal, the God of Israel, bids you say this to the king of Judah who sent you to consult me: 'This army of the Pharaoh, ad-

vancing to relieve you, shall retreat to Egypt, its own
 8 country, and the Chaldeans shall come back to assault this city, capturing it and burning
 9 it in flames. Do not delude yourselves, says the Eternal, with the notion that the Chaldeans will leave you alone; they will not leave you alone.
 10 Though you were to defeat the whole of this Chaldean host arrayed against you, till none were left but wounded men, one to a tent, they would start up to burn this city in the flames.'"
 11 When the Chaldean forces had abandoned the siege of Jerusalem, in fear of the Pharaoh's army, Jeremiah started from Jerusalem for the district of Benjamin, to take over some property among his own people.
 12 But just as he reached the Benjamin-gate of the city, he was arrested by a sentry called Irijah the son of Shelemiah and the grandson of Hananiah, who shouted to the prophet Jeremiah, "You are deserting to the Chaldeans!" "It is a lie," said
 13 Jeremiah. "I am not deserting to the Chaldeans." However, Irijah would not listen to him; he arrested Jeremiah and took
 14 him to the authorities, who in their anger had Jeremiah flogged and confined in the house of the secretary Jonathan, which had
 15 been turned into a prison. So Jeremiah found himself in the dungeon cells, where for some
 16 time he had to stay. Then king Zedekiah sent for him privately, and interviewed him in the palace. "Is there any word from the Eternal?" he asked. "There is," said Jeremiah, adding, "word that you are to be
 17 handed over to the king of Babylon." Jeremiah then asked

king Zedekiah, "For what crime against you or your ministers or this nation have you put me in prison? Pray where
 18 have you put your prophets, who assured you that the king of Babylon would never attack you or this country? Do listen
 19 to me, my lord king, be gracious to my plea; do not let me be taken back to the house of the secretary Jonathan, or I shall die there." So king Zedekiah
 20 gave orders for Jeremiah to be placed in the guard-house, where he got a loaf from the bakers' bazaar every day, so long as any bread was left within the city.

Jeremiah lay in the guard-
 21 house. But Shephathiah the son of Mattan, Gedaliah the son of Pashhur, Jehukal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur the son of Malchiah, had heard Jeremiah declaring in public that the Eternal said, "Anyone who remains in the city shall die by
 22 the sword or by famine or by plague, but anyone who surrenders to the Chaldeans shall live, escaping with his life," or that the Eternal said, "This
 23 city shall certainly be handed over to the army of the king of Babylon and captured." So
 24 these authorities said to the king, "Pray have this fellow put to death; he takes the heart out of all the citizens and soldiers left within the city, by talking like this! The fellow is out to ruin the city, not to help
 25 it!" "Well," said king Zedekiah, "he is in your hands"—for the king was powerless against them. Then they took
 26 Jeremiah and put him into an underground cistern belonging to the royal prince Malchiah, below the guard-house, lowering

- him down with ropes; the cistern held no water, only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.
- 7 However, an Ethiopian eunuch called Ebedmelek, belonging to the royal household, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the
- 8 cistern. So Ebedmelek left the palace to find the king who was then seated as judge at the Benjamin-gate. "Your majesty,"
- 9 he said, "these men have treated the prophet Jeremiah foully; they have put him into a cistern, and he will die on the spot from starvation, for there is no food
- 10 left in the city." Then the king ordered Ebedmelek to take three men and pull Jeremiah out of the cistern before he died.
- 11 Ebedmelek took the men with him and went to the palace, where he got some torn, tattered rags out of a lumber-room below the treasury; these he lowered by ropes to Jeremiah in
- 12 the cistern, saying, "Put them between your armpits and the
- 13 ropes." Jeremiah did so. And they pulled him up by the ropes out of the cistern.
- 14 Jeremiah then stayed in the guard-house. King Zedekiah sent for the prophet Jeremiah to the guards' entrance into the temple. The king said, "I ask you a question which you must
- 15 answer frankly." Jeremiah said to king Zedekiah, "But if I tell you the truth, you will certainly put me to death, will you not? Besides, you will not listen
- 16 to any advice from me." So the king swore this oath in secret to Jeremiah: "As the Eternal lives, who made this life of ours, I will not put you to death, nor will I hand you over to these murder-
- 17 ous men." Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "This is what the Eternal says, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: 'If you surrender to the king of Babylon's officers, then you save your life, and this city shall not be burned in flames; you and your household will be spared. But if you will not surrender to the king of
- 18 Babylon's officers, then this city shall be handed over to the Chaldeans to be burned in flames, and you cannot escape from their hands.'" King Zede-
- 19 kiah said to Jeremiah, "But I am afraid the Chaldeans may hand me over to the Jews who have deserted to them, and who may make a fool of me."
- 20 "They shall not hand you over," Jeremiah answered; "do listen to what I say—it is the voice of the Eternal—and then all will go well with you, and you shall live. But if you refuse to sur-
- 21 render, then I have this vision for you from the Eternal: I saw
- 22 all the women who are left within the palace of the king of Judah, led away to the officers of the king of Babylon, and chanting as they went, 'Your bosom friends have been too much for you and led you far astray; they got your feet deep in the mud, and then they turned away.'
- 23 All your wives and children shall be led away to the Chaldeans, and you yourself cannot escape from their hands; you shall be captured by the king of Babylon, and this city burned in flames." Then Zedekiah said
- 24 to Jeremiah, "Keep this interview a secret, and your life is safe. If the authorities hear
- 25 that I have been talking to you, and if they come and ask you to tell them what you said to the king and what the king said to you, on pain of death if you will

26 not disclose it, then you must tell them that you were petitioning the king not to be sent back to die at Jonathan's house." The authorities did all come and question Jeremiah, and he answered them just as the king had told him; so they said no more, for the interview had been quite private. Jeremiah then remained within the guard-house till the day Jerusalem fell.

39 It was during Jeremiah's 15 detention in the guard-house that this message came to him from the Eternal, "Go and tell Ebedmelek the Ethiopian that the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, declares: 'Though I am bringing evil and not good upon this city, as I said I would, yet I will preserve you on that day—so the Eternal promises; you shall not be handed over to the men you are afraid of. I will certainly rescue you; you shall not fall by the sword, but you shall escape with your life, because you have put your trust in me—so the Eternal promises.'"

38 When Jerusalem fell, the 28 officers of the king of Babylon all came and held a council at 3 the middle gate of the city—Nergalsarezer the cavalry commander, Nebushazban the field-marshal, and all the other officers of the king of Babylon; they 14 sent for Jeremiah from the guard-house and entrusted him to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam and the grandson of Shaphan, who was to take him to his own house. So Jeremiah stayed among the people.

39 [[In the tenth month of the ninth year of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon with all his army attacked Jerusalem

and besieged it; on the ninth 2 day of the fourth month of the eleventh year of the reign of Zedekiah, a breach was made in the walls of the city, and 4 when Zedekiah king of Judah and the garrison saw this, they all took to flight, leaving the city during the night, through the royal gardens, by the gate between the two walls. They made for the Jordan valley. However, the Chaldean army 5 went in pursuit of them and overtook Zedekiah in the steppes of Jericho; they caught him and carried him to Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, at Riblah in the district of Hamath, where sentence was passed upon the prisoners. At Riblah the 6 king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before their father's eyes; the king of Babylon also slew all the officials of Judea; he then put out the eyes of 7 Zedekiah and chained him fast, to carry him to Babylon. The 8 Chaldeans burned down the royal palace and the houses of the common people, and they demolished the walls of Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan the commander-in-chief carried off to exile in Babylon the citizens who remained in the city, and those who had deserted to him, with all the craftsmen who were left. However, he did leave in 10 the land of Judah some poor people who were penniless, allotting them vineyards and fields. As for Jeremiah, Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon issued 11 these orders to Nebuzaradan the commander-in-chief: "Take 12 good care of him; do him no harm, but treat him as he wishes." So a message to this 13 effect was forwarded by Nebuzaradan the commander-in-chief

to Nebushazban the field-marshal, and Nergalsarzer the cavalry commander, and the other principal officers of the king of Babylon.]]

- 40 The message that came from
1 the Eternal to Jeremiah, after
he had been released from Ramah by Nebuzaradan the commander-in-chief, who had found him there, chained among the prisoners who were all being carried from Jerusalem and Judæa into exile at Babylon:
31 "Here is what the Eternal says:
15 'A sound is heard at Ramah,
a wail, a passion of tears—
'tis Rachel sobbing for her children,
sobbing for her children gone,
refusing to be comforted.
16 But cease your sobbing,
stay your eyes from tears;
your labour for the children is not lost,
they shall return from the land of their foes;
17 there is hope for you in days to come,
your children shall return—the Eternal promises.'"

- 40 The commander-in-chief took
2 Jeremiah and said to him, "The Eternal your God pronounced this sentence of doom upon this place, and he has kept his word;
3 it is because you sinned against the Eternal and would not listen to him, that this has happened
4 to you. Well now, I am releasing you to-day from the chains upon your hands. If you care to come with me to Babylon, I will take good care of you. If not, then never mind; all the land lies open to you, go wherever you think right and good.
5 Go back to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam and the grandson of Shaphan, whom the king of

Babylon has appointed governor of the towns of Judah; stay with him, or go wherever else you choose." Then the commander-in-chief sent him off with some food and a present; Jeremiah did go to Gedaliah 6 the son of Ahikam at Mizpah, and stayed with him among the people who were left in the land.

When the leaders of the Jewish forces throughout the country heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam as governor of the land, in charge of the destitute men, women, and children who had not been carried off to exile in Babylon, they and their men 8 all went to Gedaliah at Mizpah; there were Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan and Jonathan the sons of Karëah, Seraiah the son of Tarhumeth, the sons of Ephai from Netophah, and Jezaniah the son of a man from Maakah. Gedaliah 9 pledged his word to them and to their men, swearing that they need not fear to serve the Chaldeans; "stay on in the country," he said, "serve the king of Babylon, and all will go well with you. For my 10 part I reside at Mizpah in order to represent your interests whenever Chaldean officials arrive upon the scene; but you can gather and store up wine, fruit, and oil; you can live in any towns you care to occupy." When all the Jews in Moab, 11 Ammon, Edom, and elsewhere, heard that the king of Babylon had allowed some Jews to stay on in Judah and had appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam as governor, they too returned to 12 Judah from the countries to which they had been driven;

they went to Gedaliah at Mizpah, and gathered large stores of wine and fruit.

13 Now Johanan the son of Karêah went with all the other leaders of the Jewish forces to Gedaliah at Mizpah and asked

14 him, "Are you aware that Baalis king of the Ammonites has sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to murder you?" Gedaliah the son of Ahikam would not

15 believe it. Johanan the son of Karêah then had a private interview with him at Mizpah and asked him, "Do let me go and kill Ishmael. No one need know about it. Why should he murder you? It will mean the dispersal of all the Jews who have rallied round you, and the ruin of all who are left in

16 Judah." "No," said Gedaliah to Johanan, "you must not do that; what you say about Ish-

41 mael is not true." But in the seventh month, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the grandson of Elishama, a member of the royal family, came with ten men to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam at Mizpah, and, as

2 they dined together, Ishmael and his ten companions drew their swords and murdered Gedaliah the son of Ahikam and the grandson of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon had appointed as governor of the

3 country. Ishmael also killed all the Jews who were with Gedaliah at Mizpah, and all the Chaldean soldiers who happened to

4 be there. Next day, before any one knew about Gedaliah's

5 murder, eighty pilgrims arrived from Shechem, Shilo, and Samaria, their beards shaved off, their bodies gashed, and their clothes torn, bringing vegetables and frankincense to be offered at

the temple. Ishmael the son of 6 Nethaniah went out from Mizpah to meet them, as they

marched along wailing. When he met them, he said to them, "Come to Gedaliah the son of

Ahikam." But as soon as they 7

were inside the town, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and his companions murdered them and flung their bodies into an under-

ground cistern. Ten men 8

among them, however, said to Ishmael, "Do not kill us; we have stores hidden in the fields, wheat, barley, oil, and honey."

So he let them alone and did not murder them along with

their fellows. (The cistern into 9

which Ishmael flung all the

corpses of the men he murdered

was the large cistern constructed

by king Asa during his campaign

against Baasha king of Israel; the men whom Ishmael murdered

filled it full.) Ishmael then 10

carried off as prisoners all the

rest of the people at Mizpah

and the princesses whom Nebuzaradan the commander-in-

chief had left in charge of Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. He

started across country for Ammon. But as soon as Johanan

11 the son of Karêah and the other

leaders of the Jewish forces

heard of all the crimes committed by Ishmael the son of

Nethaniah, they mustered all 12

their men and set out to attack

him. They came upon Ishmael the son of Nethaniah at the large

pool of Gibeon. When the pris-

13 oners whom Ishmael had carried

off from Mizpah saw Johanan the son of Karêah and the other

leaders of the forces with him,

they all rejoiced and broke 14

away to join Johanan. Ishmael 15

escaped with eight of his men, and got away to the Ammonites.

16 while Johanan the son of Karéah and the other leaders of the forces with him took charge of all the people whom Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had carried off as prisoners from Mizpah after his murder of Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, men, women, children, and eunuchs.

17 They travelled on, stopping for a while at the sheepfolds of Kimham near Bethlehem, whence they intended to move on to Egypt; for they were terrified of the Chaldeans, because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had murdered Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had appointed as governor of the country. Then all the leaders of the Jewish forces, with Johanan the son of Karéah, Azariah the son of Maaseiah, and all the people high and low,

2 said to the prophet Jeremiah, "Let us entreat you to favour us by praying for us to the Eternal your God, a mere remnant as we are. We are but a few left out of many, as you can see for yourself; let the Eternal your God direct us where to go and what to do." "I hear you," said Jeremiah; "I will indeed pray to the Eternal your God, as you desire, and I will tell you whatever the Eternal's answer may be, keeping nothing back."

5 Then they said to Jeremiah, "The Eternal be our true and faithful witness that we will follow any instructions which the Eternal sends to us through you. Whether it be welcome or unwelcome, we will obey the word of the Eternal our God to whom we send you, and so obeying prosper."

7 Ten days later the Eternal's word came to Jeremiah. He summoned Johanan the son of

Karéah and all the other leaders of the Jewish forces, along with all the people high and low, and said to them, "Here is the word of the Eternal, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me with your humble petition: If only you remain in this country, I will build you up, instead of pulling you down; I will plant you, instead of uprooting you; for I am sorry about the misery I have inflicted on you. You are terrified of the king of Babylon? Never fear him, never fear him, the Eternal says, for I will be with you to rescue you from his hands. I will have pity on you and move him to have pity on you and allow you to remain in your own country. But if you say, 'We will not remain in this country,' if you disobey the Eternal your God and say, 'No, we will go to Egypt and make our home in a land where we shall see no more war and hear no blare of trumpets and never starve,' then listen to what the Eternal says, O survivors of Judah; the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, declares, 'If you are bent on going to Egypt and if you really settle there, then the sword you dread shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, the hunger that you fear shall pursue you into Egypt, and you shall die there; all who are bent on going to settle in Egypt shall die by the sword, by famine, or by plague, not one of them shall survive or escape the fate that I inflict upon them. Here is what the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, declares: As my fury and anger have been poured out on the citizens of Jerusalem, so shall my fury be poured out upon you, when you enter Egypt;

- you shall become an object of execration and horror, accursed and derided, and you shall never see this place again!"
- 19 O survivors of Judah, this is the Eternal's word to you, 'Do not go to Egypt.' You will go? Then be sure of this, you have
- 20 ruined yourselves. I testify against you for sending me to the Eternal our God, asking me to pray for you to the Eternal our God, promising to do whatever I told you was the will of
- 21 the Eternal our God, and then, after I told you to-day, refusing to listen to any orders which the Eternal sends you by me.
- 22 For that, be sure, you are doomed to die by the sword, or by famine, or by the plague in the land where you choose to go and settle." When Jeremiah
- 43 had finished telling all the people all the words that the Eternal their God had sent him to deliver to them, Azariah the son of Maaseiah and Johanan the son of Karêah and the rest of that insolent group, said to Jeremiah, "You are a liar; the Eternal our God never sent you to forbid us
- 3 to go and settle in Egypt; it is Baruch the son of Neriah who is setting you against us: he would have us handed over to the Chaldeans to be killed or carried prisoners to Babylon."
- 4 So Johanan the son of Karêah and all the other leaders of the Jewish forces and all the people refused to obey the Eternal's order to remain in the country
- 5 of Judah; Johanan the son of Karêah and all the other leaders took all the survivors in Judah, who had come back to
- 6 settle in the country, men, women, and children, princesses, every person who had been entrusted by Nebuzaradan the commander-in-chief to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam and the grandson of Shaphan, including the prophet Jeremiah and Baruch the son of Neriah; heedless of what the Eternal said, they entered the land of Egypt and reached Daphne. At Daphne this message from the Eternal came to Jeremiah: "Take some large stones in your hand, let some of the Jews see you hiding them secretly under the paved court in front of the entry to the Pharaoh's house at Daphne, and tell them that this is what the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, says: 'I am sending for my servant Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, who shall erect his throne over these stones that you have buried, spreading his state carpet on the top of them. He shall come to ravage the land of Egypt, inflicting death on those who are doomed to die, capturing those doomed to be imprisoned, and putting to the sword those who are doomed to the sword; he shall set fire to the temples of the gods in Egypt, burning them and carrying off the idols; he shall scour the land of Egypt as a shepherd picks vermin out of his plaid; he shall demolish the obelisks of Beth-shemesh, and then leave unmolested.'"
- Here is the message that came to Jeremiah about all the Jews who were living in Egypt, at Migdol, Daphne, Memphis, and in Upper Egypt: "The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, declares: 'You have seen all the misery I have inflicted on Jerusalem and all the towns of Judah. There they lie to-day, empty and desolate, for their wicked practices that angered me! They took to offering sac-

- rifices in the service of foreign
 gods, unknown to them or to
 yourselves or to your fathers.
 4 I sent you all my servants the
 prophets, earnestly and ur-
 gently, to forbid this abomina-
 5 tion which I hated; but they
 would not listen or obey, they
 would not give up their wicked
 practice of sacrificing to foreign
 6 gods. So my fury and my
 anger broke out blazing through
 the towns of Judah and the
 streets of Jerusalem, laying
 them waste and desolate, as
 7 they lie to-day. Now then, says
 the Eternal, the God of hosts,
 the God of Israel, why will you
 ruin yourselves and put an end
 to Judah, man, woman, child,
 8 and babe? Why anger me with
 your practices, sacrificing to
 foreign gods in the land of
 Egypt where you have gone to
 settle? It will mean the end of
 you; all nations upon earth will
 9 curse and taunt you. Have you
 forgotten the crimes of your
 fathers, and of the kings and
 leaders of Judah, aye and the
 crimes of your own wives in the
 country of Judah and in the
 10 streets of Jerusalem? It has
 not made them humble or
 afraid, not to this day; they
 have not followed my directions
 nor have they lived by the rules
 I gave to you and to your
 11 fathers. Therefore, says the
 Lord of hosts, the God of Israel,
 I have determined on evil
 against you, to make an end of
 12 Judah; as for the survivors of
 Judah who made up their minds
 to go and settle in the land of
 Egypt, in the land of Egypt
 shall they all perish, all of them,
 falling by the sword and famine,
 dying young and old by sword
 and famine, and becoming an
 object of horror and execration,
 accursed and derided. For, as 13
 I punished Jerusalem, so will I
 punish all who have settled in
 the land of Egypt, by sword, by
 famine, and by plague, till not a 14
 single Jewish settler in the land
 of Egypt shall escape or survive
 to make his way back to the
 longed-for land of Judah; only
 a fugitive or two shall ever get
 back.' " Then all the men who 15
 knew that their wives sacrificed
 to foreign gods, and all the
 women who were standing by,
 shouted loudly to Jeremiah,
 "We will not listen to this word 16
 of yours that you have uttered
 as from the Eternal. No, we 17
 mean to keep without fail this
 oath of ours to offer sacrifices
 to the Queen of heaven, and
 pour libations in her honour, as
 we used to do, we and our
 fathers, our kings and leaders,
 in the towns of Judah and on
 the streets of Jerusalem. Then
 we had plenty of food, we prospered
 and came to no harm. But ever
 since we gave up sac- 18
 rificing to the Queen of heaven
 and pouring out libations in her
 honour, we have been in utter
 need and at the mercy of the
 sword and famine." "Yes," 19
 cried the women, "and had we
 not the consent of our husbands
 when we sacrificed to the Queen
 of heaven and poured libations
 in her honour and made cakes
 in the shape of her?" [(Then 20
 Jeremiah said to all the people,
 to the men and women who had
 given this answer: "You offered 21
 these sacrifices in the towns of
 Judah and on the streets of Jeru-
 salem, you and your fathers, your
 kings and leaders and the com-
 mons? Yes, and did the Eternal
 forget it? Did it not rankle in 22
 his mind, till he could bear your
 wicked practices and abomi-

nable crimes no longer? That is why your land lies desolate and empty, horrible and ac-

23 cursed, to-day. This doom is yours to-day, because you offered these sacrifices, because you sinned against the Eternal and would not obey him, because you would not follow his directions and orders and in-

24 junctions."]] Then Jeremiah said to all the people and to all the women: "Listen to the word

25 of the Eternal. The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, declares: You women have done all you swore to do, saying, 'We will perform our vows without fail, sacrificing to the Queen of heaven and pouring libations in her honour.' Well, keep your word, carry out your vows!

26 Listen to the Eternal's word, you Jews in Egypt; 'I swear by my great name that my name shall never be heard on the lips of any Jew who has gone to

28 settle in Egypt. Then the survivors of the Jews in Egypt will find out whose word stands,

29 mine or theirs. And here is the sign that I will punish you in this country, the Eternal says, to teach you that my threat of doom will stand against you:

30 I will deliver the Pharaoh Hophra, king of Egypt, into the hands of his enemies and murderers, as I put Zedekiah king of Judah into the hands of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, his enemy and murderer." * * *

46 Messages from the Eternal to the prophet Jeremiah about the nations.

2 On Egypt: about the army of Pharaoh-necho king of Egypt at Karkēmish on the river Euphrates, where it was defeated by Nebuchadrezzar king of Baby-

lon, in the fourth year of Jehoia-kim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:

Ready with your shields and 3
targes,

forward to the fray!

Harness horses, mount your 4
chargers,

on with helmets, swing your
spears,

don your coats of mail!

What! routed, in a panic! 5

Their braves are beaten,

they fly, never rally,

beset by terror;

but no speed saves them, 6

no hero escapes,

in the north, by the Euphrates,

they collapse.

What is this, rising like the Nile. 7
with tossing floods?

'Tis Egypt shouting, "I will en- 8
gulf the world.

I rise to sweep off its inhabi-
tants!"

Prance on, horses, rage away. 9
chariots,

charge on, warriors,

men with shields from Kush and
Punt,

bowmen from Libya!

But this is Lord Eternal's day. 10
a day for vengeance on his

foes,

a day when the sword devours
with a vengeance,

and drinks its fill of blood;

for the Lord of hosts is sacri-
ficing victims

in the north, by the Eu-
phrates.

You may get balsam from 11
Gilead,

my lady Egypt,

but all your salves are vain.
for you there is no healing.

The whole world hears you 12
wailing,

your crying rings around,

- for one brave falls over another,
and both drop to the ground.
- 13 The Eternal's prediction to
the prophet Jeremiah that Neb-
uchadnezzar king of Babylon
would come and ravage the
land of Egypt:
- 14 Tell it in Migdol,
proclaim it at Memphis:
"To your feet, be all ready,
the sword sweeps all round
you!"
- 15 Why has Apis run away?
That Bull-god could not
stand,
for the Eternal laid him low.
- 16 Your foreign traders fall away,
they fall and to themselves
they say,
"Let us begone to the land of
our birth,
back home again,
away from the sweep of the
sword."
- 17 (Call the Pharaoh 'Fatality,'
for he has let his chance go
by!)
- 18 By my life, says the King, the
Lord of hosts,
here comes an invader,
towering like mount Tabor,
like Karmel by the sea!
- 19 Get ready for your exile,
my lady Egypt;
for Memphis empty lies and
desolate,
burned to the ground.
- 20 Egypt is a handsome heifer,
but herdsmen from the north
shall master her;
her day of doom has dawned.
- 21c her punishing hour is upon
her;
- 21a the soldiers that she hired
have proved like pampered
kine,
- 21b they scampered off in flight,
they made no stand.
- 22a She can but draw back hissing
like a snake before her foes;
- for they outnumber locusts, 23b
past all counting,
they come at her with axes, 22b
like woodmen hewing a tree,
while the Eternal cries out, "Fell 23a
her forest,
dense though it be."
- My lady Egypt is dishonoured, 24
in the hands of the north-
men.
- The Lord of hosts, the God 25
of Israel, declares: "I will pun-
ish Amon the god of Thebes,
and also the Pharaoh with any
who rely on him; I will hand 26
them over to their murderers,
to Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon and his officers.
Though in after days Egypt
shall be inhabited as it was in
the days of old (so the Eternal
promises)."
- The message from the Eter- 47
nal that came to the prophet
Jeremiah about the Philistines,
before the Pharaoh stormed
Gaza. The Eternal declares:
"Floods are gathering in the 2
north
and swell into a torrent,
to flood the land and all it
holds,
the capital and all its citizens!
At the thunder of hoofs in the 3
cavalry charge,
at the rush and roar of the
chariot wheels,
fathers fear to turn and save
their children—
so unmanned are the Philis-
tines!
- The day of havoc strips from 4
Tyre and Sidon
any support still left them;
for the Eternal will make havoc
of all left upon the coast.
Gaza mourns with shaven head, 5
Ashkelon is overwhelmed;
Poor Ekron—all that is left of
you!—

- long will you gash yourself in grief."
- 6 "Sword of the Eternal," you cry,
"Will you never be quiet?
Sheathe yourself and give o'er!"
- 7 But how can it be quiet,
when it has the Eternal's orders
to execute on Ashkelon and the shore?
- 48 On Moab:
The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel declares:
"Alas for Nebo, it is sacked!
Kureyat captured, to its shame,
and Moab's bulwark stormed!"
- 2 Moab now has lost its fame;
from Heshbon foes have planned
to blot the nation out of being,
to press upon it, sword in hand,
to leave it not a sound of life.
- 3 Hark! a howl from Horonaim,
for the havoc and the slaughter;
- 4 Moab is shattered,
and her cry rings even to Zoar.
- 5 Moabites climb up to Luhith,
weeping as they go;
for, hurrying down from Horonaim,
they heard shrieks of slaughter.
- 6 Run for your lives, get away
like a wild ass to the wold!
- 7 You put faith in your for-
tresses;
so you are captured!
Kemôsh your god shall be de-
ported,
with his priests and princes;
- 8 every town shall be despoiled,
not one escapes;
- valleys shall be raided,
and plains ruined—
so the Eternal orders.
- Give Moab wings? 9
She fain would fly away
from towns laid waste,
and emptied!
- No, a curse on him who slackens 10
in this work of the Eternal!
A curse on any who will stint
their swords of blood!
- Moab from the first has lain at 11
ease,
never known exile afar,
lain like wine left on the lees,
never poured from jar to jar,
that tastes the same as ever,
and its scent mellows never.
- But the day comes, says the 12
Eternal,
when I send men to move
him,
tilting him over,
emptying out his casks,
and breaking up his flasks.
- Then Moab shall find Kemôsh 13
fail him,
like Israel when it trusted
Bethel.
- "You boast yourselves brave, 14
you are warriors bold,
and here is your Moab invaded. 15
and the flower of his youth
mowed down!"
says the King called the
Lord of hosts.
- Moab's calamity closes upon 16
him,
and fast his fate comes on.
- Bemoan him, all ye neighbour- 17
ing folk,
all ye who know his fame;
cry, 'Ah, his sceptre strong is
snapped,
his splendid sway has gone!'
- O dwellers in Dibon, down from 18
your height,
and cower in the mire;

- for Moab's invader attacks
you,
and storms your stronghold!
- 19 O dwellers in Arôer,
stand on the road and look
out,
ask news from men in flight
and women who escape.
- 20 'Moab is broken, to his shame,'
they sigh,
'Wail for it, cry.' "
- 21 [Tell the news upon the
banks of Arnon, that Moab is
devastated, that doom has
reached the plains, reached Ho-
lon, Jahzah, Mephaath, Dibon,
- 22 Nebo, Beth-diblathaim, Kure-
yat, Beth-gamul, Beth-mëon,
- 24 Keriyyoth, Bezer, and all the
towns of Moab, far and near.]]
- 25 Moab's strength is lopped off,
Moab's might is broken;
- 26 Make him drunk and help-
less,
for his insolence to the Eter-
nal.
Loud was Moab in derision;
so let him be derided.
- 27 For Israel you did deride;
you tossed your head in scorn,
whenever you talked of him,
as of one caught in a thieves'
gang.
- 28 Leave your towns, take to the
cliffs,
you folk of Moab;
make your nests like doves
in crevices of crags.
- 29 We have heard of Moab's pride,
his lordly pride,
his airs and arrogance,
and haughty heart.
- 30 The Eternal says, "I know his
rage,
his hollow vaunts, his hollow
deeds."
- So I must wail for Moab, 31
lamenting for all Moab,
bemoaning what befalls Kir-
heres.
- O vine of Sibmah, I join Jazer 32
in bewailing you;
for once your branches stretched
across
as far as Jazer,
and now your gathered grapes
are ravaged,
now Moab's garden-land is all 33
bereft
of joy and gladness,
no wine is trodden out from
grapes,
no tilting at the vintage!
- Heshbon and Elealeh wail, 34
from Zoar to Jahaz goes the
cry,
Horonaim and Eglath-the-third
call out,
for even Nimrim's streams
are dry.
- [[I also abolish in Moab, says 35
the Eternal,
all worshippers at shrines,
all those who sacrifice to
idols.]]
- So my heart thrills with pity 36
for poor Moab,
thrills for the fate of Kir-
heres,
losing all his gains.
- Heads are shaven, beards cut 37
close,
hands are gashed, and sack-
cloth worn,
on all the roofs of Moab, in its 38
streets,
men moan and mourn;
for I have shattered Moab
like a discarded dish.
- How shattered! (ah, bewail it) 39
defeated and disgraced!
All around are over-awed,
and yet mock at Moab.
- For this is the Eternal's word: 40
Here is an eagle swooping
with a dash on Moab!

- 41 Towns are taken,
fortresses surprised:
the heart of Moab's heroes on
that day
is weak as any woman's in
her pangs.
- 42 Moab no more is a nation,
for its insolence to the Eter-
nal.
- 43 Panic and pitfall and snares
await you,
O inhabitants of Moab;
- 44 fly from the panic, you are in a
pitfall—
crawl out, you are caught in
a snare!
For I am bringing upon Moab
(the Eternal says)
its year of punishment.
- 45 Fugitives cower for shelter at
Heshbon,
all in vain;
for a blaze began at Heshbon,
flaming out from Sihon's pal-
ace,
till Ar of Moab was consumed,
and Arnon's heights devoured.
- 46 Poor Moabites!
O forlorn folk of Kemôsh!
The god has left your sons to
flight,
your daughters to a prisoner's
plight.
- 47 [[Though in the latter days—
so the Eternal promises—I will
restore the fortunes of Moab.]]
[[Here ends the sentence
passed on Moab.]]
- 49 On the Ammonites.
Here is the Eternal's word:
Has Israel no sons, no heir?
Why, then, is Gad claimed
by god Milkom?
Why do his people tenant
towns of Gad?
- 2 Therefore a day comes (the
Eternal declares)
when I will send the war-cry
against Rabbah of the Am-
monites,
till it is left a desolate heap,
its townships in the flames.
Then shall Israel come to hold
those who now hold her.
- Howl, O palace of Rabbah, 3
at the sack of the city!
Scream, ye women of Rabbah,
gird yourselves with sack-
cloth,
wail and run about in mourn-
ing:
for Milkom is deported
with his priests and princes.
- Why vaunt your valleys, 4
careless creature,
so proud of your resources,
so sure you are beyond at-
tack?
- I will put you in terror 5
of all around you,
says the Lord, the Lord of
hosts,
till you are routed headlong
past all rallying.
[[Though later on, so the 6
Eternal promises, I will restore
the fortunes of the Ammon-
ites.]]
- On Edom. 7
Here is the word from the Lord
of hosts:
Temán is no longer shrewd;
wary men have lost their wits,
and their shrewdness has
failed them.
- So turn and fly to your re- 8
treats,
ye dwellers in Dedan;
for I bring upon Esau his doom,
his hour of punishment.
- If gatherers of grapes came 9
upon you,
would they leave any grapes
to glean?
If robbers in the night came on
you,
would they not steal more
than they need?
- So I strip Esau clean and bare, 10
I have laid open his retreats,

- till he cannot conceal himself—
he is stamped out to a man.
- 11 Yet leave to me your orphans,
I will save them;
let your widows trust to me.”
- 12 Here is the Eternal's sentence: “If those who did not
deserve to drink the cup of the
divine anger have to drink it
notwithstanding, are you to go
unpunished? No, you shall not
- 13 get off; drink it you must. For
I have sworn by my own life,
that Busaireh shall be waste
and cursed, desolate and de-
rided, and all its hamlets laid
in ruin for all time.”
- 14 The Eternal sends me news
of an envoy sent to the na-
tions,
bidding them muster against
Edom,
and make war upon her.
- 15 “For I will make you least
among the nations,
despised in the world of
men.
- 16 How you will shudder then!
Your pride of heart has
played you false,
perched in your fastness of the
rocks,
ensconced upon your preci-
pices!
Nest high as any eagle,
but I will pull you down, says
the Eternal.
- 17 till Edom is a shocking deso-
lation,
till passers-by whistle in sur-
prise
and horror at its ruin;
- 18 as when Sodom and Gomorrah
fell,
with the towns around them,
not a soul shall live there,
not a man shall dwell there.
- 19 Like shepherds when the lion
leaves
the jungle of Jordan for the
pasture,
- I will chase them away sud-
denly,
and seize their rarest rams.
Who can match me? Who dare
challenge me?
What shepherd can face me?
Hear, then, the Eternal's plan 20
against Edom,
his purpose for the Teman-
ites:
their shepherd lads shall be
dragged away,
and the farm appalled at
their fate!
Earth trembles at the crash of 21
Edom's fall;
the noise resounds to the
Reed Sea.
Here is an eagle swooping 22
with a dash upon Busaireh!
The heart of Edom's warriors
on that day
is weak as any woman's in
her pangs.”
- On Damascus. 23
Hamath and Arpad are dumb-
founded,
when the bad news comes;
they surge uneasy as the sea,
restless in their anxiety.
Damascus has collapsed, 24
and turned to fly,
seized suddenly with shuddering,
caught by sharp anguish,
like a woman in her pangs.
Woe to her, a famous city, 25
a gay city, now forlorn!
I will fling fires of war upon 27
Damascus' walls,
to burn up all Benhadad's
palaces.
- On Kedar and the realm of 28
Hazor, conquered by Nebuchad-
rezzar king of Babylon.
Here is the Eternal's word:
“Up against Kedar,
ravage the Arabs!
The foe shall seize their tents 29
and flocks,

- their wares, their curtains,
 and their camels,
 yelling at them,
 scaring them on every side.
 30 Turn and fly far to your re-
 treats,
 inhabitants of Hazor;
 for Nebuchadrezzar king of
 Babylon
 has planned and purposed to
 attack you."
- 31 The Eternal's word is:
 "Up and attack them,
 a people at their ease, un-
 troubled,
 with neither gate nor bar,
 living remote from men;
 32 their camels shall be your
 booty,
 their vast herds fall to you.
 I scatter to the winds
 the crop-haired folk,
 rain ruin upon them
 from every side,
 33 till Hazor is a heap of ruins,
 a mere haunt of jackals;
 not a soul shall live there,
 not a man shall dwell there."
- 34 The Eternal's message to the
 prophet Jeremiah about Elam,
 at the beginning of the reign of
 Zedekiah king of Judah.
- 35 The Lord of hosts declares:
 "I will break the bow of Elam,
 their mainstay;
 36 [[hurl against Elam the four
 winds of the world
 and scatter them to the
 winds,
 till there is no nation
 where no waifs from Elam
 come;]]
 37 make Elam quail before their
 foes,
 before their murderers;
 rain ruin upon them,
 my fierce anger;
 send the sword after them,
 till they are all consumed;
- pass sentence of doom, out of 33
 Elam,
 on its king and chiefs.
 [[Though in the latter days—so 39
 the Eternal promises—I will
 restore the fortunes of
 Elam.]]
- The Eternal's message for 50
 the prophet Jeremiah about
 Babylon and the land of the
 Chaldeans:
 Tell the nations and proclaim it, 2
 let the news go free,
 that Babylon is captured,
 her idols are disgraced,
 her blocks of gods are in dis-
 may,
 Bêl in disgrace and Marduk
 in dismay!
 A foe from the north has at- 3
 tacked her,
 to lay waste the land,
 till not a man dwells there,
 till man and beast are gone.
- And then, says the Eternal, at 4
 that hour
 the Israelites return,
 they and the men of Judah,
 wending their way weeping
 in search of the Eternal their
 God,
 asking the way to Sion. 5
 their faces turned to it,
 calling each other to join the
 Eternal
 in a lasting compact,
 never to be forgotten.
- My people have been lost sheep. 6
 for their shepherds led them
 astray,
 and turned them loose on the
 bare hills;
 where up and down they wan-
 dered,
 all forgetful of the fold.
 Those who caught them all de- 7
 voured them;
 " 'Tis no sin," said their foes,

- “they have offended the Eternal One,
their true Fold and their
father’s Hope.”
- 8 Fly now from Babylon, leave
Chaldæa,
lead those who leave, like he-
goats.
- 9 For I am rousing against Baby-
lon
a horde of nations from the
north,
to battle with her mightily
until they master her,
shooting like expert archers,
who never go empty-handed;
- 10 no, Chaldæa shall be their
booty,
her plunderers shall all get
their fill.
- 11 Though you rejoice now and
exult,
you Babylonians, plundering
my own people,
though you wanton like calves
at the grass,
and neigh like lusty stal-
lions,
- 12 your mother-city shall be sore
disgraced,
and she who bore you shall
be shamed—
left in the rear of all the na-
tions,
a land deserted, desolate, and
dry;
an empty ruin shall she lie,
- 13 under the wrath of the Eter-
nal,
till all whistle in horror, passing
by,
appalled at all the blows on
Babylon.
- 14 Set upon Babylon, all round,
all ye who bend the bow;
spare not your arrows, shoot at
her—
she has offended the Eternal.
- Raise the war-cry round her— 15
she gives way,
her bastions are stormed,
her walls are down!
’Tis the Eternal’s vengeance on
her;
take your revenge,
treat her as she treated
others!
- Tea from Babylon every sower, 16
every reaper with his sickle;
let her foreigners all flee,
each scurrying home to his
own land,
to escape the sweep of the
sword.
- A scattered flock is Israel, 17
harried by lions,
mauled first by the Assyrian king,
now gnawed by Nebuchad-
rezzar
the king of Babylon.
- Therefore, the Lord of hosts 18
declares,
the God of Israel,
I punish Babylon, king and
land,
as I punished the Assyrian
king;
- I bring back Israel to his home- 19
stead,
to pasture on Karmel and
Bashan,
till he can eat his fill
in Gilead and on Ephraim’s
hill.
- Then, the Eternal promises, at 20
that hour,
no guilt in Israel shall be dis-
covered,
nor any sin detected within
Judah;
for whom I spare I pardon.
- Move against Merathaim, 21
press hard the men of Pekod,
slay them, devastate their
land—
so carrying out the Eternal’s
own command.

- 22 Listen, there is the war-cry!
Chaldea crashes!
- 23 What a hammering and shattering
for the Hammer of the world!
What a spectacle of horror
has Babylon become!
- 24 Aha! I have trapped you,
Babylon,
taken you unawares!
I have tracked you, I have
caught you,
for defying the Eternal!
- 25 The Eternal has opened his
arsenal
and brought out his arms of
anger;
for the Lord, the Lord of
hosts,
has work before him in Chal-
dæa.
- 26 Rush at her from every quarter,
rifle her granaries,
pile up her stores of grain,
and devastate all of her,
leaving no trace of her.
- 27 Slay her bulls of warriors,
butcher every one of them!
Woe betide them, their hour
has come,
their day of doom!
- 28 Listen to the waifs escaping
from the land of Babylon,
to tell in Sion how our God,
how the Eternal has avenged
his temple.
- 29 Summon archers against Baby-
lon,
all who bend the bow;
beleague her,
let not a man escape.
Requite her for her crimes,
treat her as she treated
others—
she and her insolence to the
Eternal,
the Majestic One of Israel!
- 30 So shall her youth fall in the
open street,
and all her warriors in death
be silenced.
- I am attacking you, Queen In- 31
solence,
says the Lord, the Lord of
hosts;
your hour has come,
the day for me to doom you.
Queen Insolence falls down, 32
and her no one shall raise;
I set her forest ablaze,
and the flames shall burn her
thickets.
- The Lord of hosts proclaims: 33
"Israelites and men of Judah
are trampled down together;
their captors hold them fast
and will not let them go.
But theirs is a strong cham- 34
pion,
his name the Lord of hosts;
he will take their part,
and daunt the Babylonians,
that the world may live at
peace."
- Sword, strike the Chaldeans 35
(the Eternal orders),
strike all the folk of Babylon,
her nobles and her sages!
- Sword, strike the soothsayers, 36
and they shall play the fool!
- Sword, strike her soldiers,
and they shall be in terror!
- Sword, strike her chariots and 37
horses,
and all her foreign crowd,
and they shall be weak as
women!
- Sword, strike her treasures,
and they shall be robbed!
- Sword, strike her streams, 38
and they shall be dried up!
- For it is a land of images,
and the folk boast of their
idols;
so wolves and wild-cats shall 39
live there,
ostriches shall quarter there;

- never shall it be tenanted,
forlorn from age to age.
- 40 It shall be as when God once
overthrew
Sodom, Gomorrah, and the
towns around;
not a soul shall live there,
not a man shall dwell there.
- 41 A people is coming,
out of the north-land,
a power is stirring, a host of
kings,
from the far ends of earth!
- 42 Bow and javelin they seize,
they are cruel, pitiless;
their din is like the roaring sea,
they ride on horses,
mustering like one man
to fight you, maiden Babylon.
- 43 The king of Babylon hears the
news,
his hands are limp,
panic seizes him,
pain like a woman's in travail.
- 44 Like shepherds when the lion
leaves
the jungle of Jordan for the
pasture,
I will chase them away sud-
denly,
and seize their rarest rams.
Who can match me? Who dare
challenge me?
What shepherd can face me?
- 45 Hear, then, the Eternal's plan
against Babylon,
his purpose for the Chal-
daens:
their shepherd lads shall be
dragged away,
and the farm appalled at
their fate!
- 46 Earth trembles at the crash of
Babylon's capture,
the noise resounds all through
the nations.
- 51 The Eternal declares:
I am stirring up destroyers
against Babylon, against the
dwellers in Chaldaea;
- I am sending winnowers on 2
Babylon,
to winnow her and leave her
bare.
Woe betide her everywhere,
on her day of doom!
Let the archer bend his bow, 3
let him stand up in his ar-
mour;
spare none of her soldiers,
annihilate her army;
strike them down within Chal- 4
daea,
stab them in her streets;
for their land is full of guilt 5b
against His Majesty of Is-
rael.
(But Israel and Judah are not 5a
bereft
of their God, of the Lord of
hosts.)
Fly from Babylon, every man 6
of you;
save your lives, share not her
doom;
'tis the hour of the Eternal's
vengeance,
he is rendering her due pun-
ishment.
- Once Babylon was a golden cup, 7
that made the whole world
drunk;
the nations drank her wine,
and lay before her helpless.
Suddenly Babylon falls and 8
breaks!
Wail for the creature?
Get balsam for her wounds—
perhaps she can be cured?
"No," you answer, "we would 9
fain have healed her,
but there is no curing Baby-
lon;
we must leave her to her fate,
and all go home,
for her doom rises up to heaven,
reaches the very skies.
The Eternal has made good our 10
cause;
come, let us tell in Sion

- what the Eternal, our own
God, has done."
- 11 Polish your arrows,
scour your armour.
The Eternal stirs up Media's
king,
planning to ruin Babylon.
This is the Eternal's vengeance,
vengeance for his temple.
- 12 Raise your standards against
Babylon,
blockade it round and round;
post your sentries,
lay your ambushes;
for the Eternal executes his
aim,
his sentence upon 'Babylon.
- 13 Throned upon many a stream,
with treasures that teem,
your end has come,
your web is spun!
- 14 The Lord of hosts has sworn by
his own life,
"I fill you full of foes,
that swarm like locusts,
and shout over you in
triumph."
- 20 You have been my battle-axe;
by you I have shattered na-
tions,
by you I have ruined realms,
- 21 by you I have shattered horse
and rider,
chariots and charioteers,
- 22 by you I have shattered man
and woman,
old and young, maidens and
boys,
- 23 by you I have shattered flock
and shepherd,
ploughmen and their teams,
by you I have shattered satraps
and regents—
- 24 yes, and (the Eternal prom-
ises)
I will let Sion see how I repay
both Babylon and the Chal-
daeans all
for all the wrongs they did her.
- I strike at you, says the Eternal, 25
you volcano, ruining the
world!
I will lay hands on you and
level you,
and leave you all extinct;
men will never get from you 26
any stones for building;
you shall be desolate for all
time.
- Raise your standard on the 27
earth,
blow the trumpet among the
nations,
open the campaign against her,
summon the realms—Ar-
menia, Mannai, Ashkēnaz;
muster your troops against her,
cavalry swarming like locusts.
Open the campaign against her, 28
with Media's king, his satraps
and his regents,
and all his domain.
All the world trembles, 29
for the Eternal's purpose
against Babylon holds—
to lay the land empty and
desolate.
- Babylon's soldiers cease to 30a
fight,
they stay inside their forts;
their strength has gone from
them,
they are weak as women.
Couriers meet, messengers meet, 31
running to tell the king of
Babylon
his city is stormed on every
side,
its houses all ablaze, 30b
the gates burst open;
the ferries have been seized, 32
the bastions burned,
the troops are scared.
For this is the sentence of the 33
Lord of hosts,
the God of Israel:
Babylon to be trampled like a
threshing-floor,

- then trampled like the grain
upon the floor!
- 34 "Nebuchadrezzar king of Baby-
lon
has been devouring us;
he set us down like an empty
cup,
he swallowed us like a mon-
ster,
he gorged himself with our de-
lights,
and then he threw us aside.
- 35 My torn flesh be avenged on
Babylon!"
let those who dwell in Sion
cry;
"My blood be avenged on the
Chaldeans!"
let Jerusalem cry.
- 36 And here is the Eternal's an-
swer:
"I will take your part and
avenge you,
I will dry up her lake
and drain her springs.
- 37 Babylon shall lie in ruins,
a mere haunt of jackals,
a horror and a scorn,
where no man lives."
- 38 The Babylonians all roar like
lions,
growling like lion-cubs over
their prey?
- 39 I will feast them in my fury,
make them drunk and stupe-
fied,
till they sleep the sleep that
knows no waking;
- 40 I will drive them to the sham-
bles,
like sheep, like rams and
goats.
- 41 What a downfall for Babylon!
The Splendour of the world
surprised!
What horror in the world
at Babylon's fate!
- 42 A sea has burst on Baby-
lon,
she sinks below the roaring
tides of war;
her towns lie desolate, 43
unpeopled, waterless,
a waste where no man lives,
none passes through.
And I will punish Bêl in Baby- 44
lon,
forcing him to disgorge his
plunder;
prisoners shall stream to him
no more,
for Babylon's walls are down.
- Come out of her, my people, 45
save your lives, every man of
you,
from the Eternal's burning
wrath.
- Never be daunted or dismayed 46
by rumours that you hear,
when rumours rise year after
year,
and tyrants lord it in the
land.
- For the day comes 47
when I shall punish the idols
of Babylon,
when all her country is con-
founded,
and her inhabitants drop
dead.
- Then heaven and earth and all 48
their host
shall exult over Babylon;
for invaders from the north-
land
shall reach her, the Eternal
promises.
- Yes, Babylon shall fall, O slain 49
of Israel,
as slain men have fallen
everywhere for Babylon.
- You who have escaped the 50
sword,
stay not, get away;
remember the Eternal yonder,
bethink you of Jerusalem.
- "We are ashamed," you say, 51
"at hearing of this outrage;

- foreigners entering the sacred temple!—
 it covers us with shame.”
- 52 But a day comes, the Eternal answers,
 when I punish the idols of Babylon,
 till wounded men groan over all the land.
- 53 Though Babylon mounted to the sky,
 though she entrenched herself on high,
 yet I would speed invaders against her,
 the Eternal answers.
- 54 Hark! shrieks from Babylon,
 a mighty crashing in Chal-dea!
- 55 'Tis the Eternal battering down Babylon,
 stilling the din of her city-life!
 The enemy surge in like the roaring tides,
 shouting aloud;
- 56 for the invader has reached Babylon,
 her soldiers are captured,
 their bows are all shattered.
 For the Eternal is a God of retribution,
 he never fails to punish.
- 57 “I will make her nobles and her sages drunk,
 satraps and regents and soldiers,
 till they sleep the sleep that knows no waking,”
 says the King called the Lord of hosts.
- 58 Here is the Eternal's sentence:
 “Babylon's broad wall shall be razed,
 and her high gates burned with fire.
 So ends the toil of nations, ends in smoke,
 and pagans waste their pains.”

The instructions given by the prophet Jeremiah to Seraiah the son of Neriah, the grandson of Mahseiah, the quartermaster who accompanied Zedekiah king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. Jeremiah had written on a scroll all the evils that were to befall Babylon, and he said to Seraiah, “When you reach Babylon, be sure to read this all over; when you have finished, tie a stone to the scroll and throw it into the Euphrates, saying, ‘So shall Babylon sink and never rise again, for the Eternal dooms it.’”

Here end the words of Jeremiah.

Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem for eleven years; his mother's name was Hamutal, a daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah. He did what was evil in the sight of the Eternal, exactly as Jehoiakim had done. The Eternal was so wroth that he let Jerusalem go from bad to worse, till he would have no more to do with them. And then Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon. On the tenth day of the tenth month of the ninth year of his reign Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon attacked Jerusalem with all his army; they pitched camp, and ran a wall round it, besieging the city till the eleventh year of king Zedekiah. By the ninth day of the fourth month (and by this time the famine in the city was so severe that the people had no food), a breach was made in the walls of the city. On seeing this the whole garrison took to flight, leaving

- the city during the night, by the gate beside the royal garden, between the two walls, making their way along the Arābah, as the Chaldeans had invested the city on all sides. They made for the Jordan valley. However, the Chaldean army went in pursuit of the king and overtook Zedekiah in the steppes of Jericho, his own army having all scattered and left him. The king was captured and carried off to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the district of Hamath, where sentence was passed upon him.
- At Riblah the king of Babylon slew Zedekiah's sons before their father's eyes, and also all the authorities of Judah; he then put out the eyes of Zedekiah, chained him fast, and carried him away to Babylon, where he lay in prison till the day of his death.
- On the tenth day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of the reign of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the commander of the bodyguard, an officer of the king of Babylon, went to Jerusalem and set fire to the temple of the Eternal, as well as the royal palace and indeed all the principal buildings in the country.
- The Chaldean troops who were with him demolished the walls of Jerusalem all round. Any people left in the city, together with those who had already surrendered to the king of Babylon, and any craftsmen who were left, Nebuzaradan the commander of the bodyguard carried away prisoners, though he left some of the very poorest people of the land to be vine-dressers and ploughmen. The bronze columns, the trolley,
- and the bronze tank that were in the temple, were broken up by the Chaldeans, who took all the bronze away to Babylon; they also removed the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the basins, the saucers, and any bronze article used in the temple service; while the commander removed any gold and silver goblets, fire-pans, basins, pots, lampstands, saucers, and bowls. The bronze was past weighing, the bronze from the two columns, the tank, the twelve bulls supporting the tank, and the ten trolley which king Solomon had made for the temple. Each column was twenty-seven feet high, eighteen feet round, and four inches thick—hollow inside, with a bronze capital on the top, seven and a half feet high, surrounded by a network and pomegranates in bronze, ninety-six out of a hundred pomegranates in the network being visible.
- The commander of the bodyguard carried off Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the vice-priest, and the three wardens, along with a eunuch in charge of the army, seven privy councillors who were found in the city, the secretary of the commander, who kept the army registers, and sixty country folk whom he found within the city. Nebuzaradan the commander of the bodyguard took them away to the king of Babylon at Riblah. And there, at Riblah in the district of Hamath, the king of Babylon slew them all.
- Thus was Judah carried from its land into exile. The number of prisoners carried off to exile by Nebuchadrezzar was as follows: in the seventeenth year of his reign, three thou-

- sand and twenty-three Jews;
29 in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar, eight hundred and
30 thirty-two from Jerusalem; in the twenty-third year of Nebuchadrezzar, seven hundred and forty-five Jews, carried captive by Nebuzaradan the commander of the bodyguard; in all, four thousand six hundred.
- 31 In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiakin king of Judah, on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month, Evil-merôdak king of Babylon—it was the first year of his reign—took Jehoiakin king of Judah out of prison; he was civil to 32 Jehoiakin and treated him better than his fellow-monarchs in captivity at Babylon. He 33 changed his prison dress, and Jehoiakin dined with the king every day of his life. Also an 34 allowance was made for him daily by the king of Babylon, to maintain him as long as ever he lived.

LAMENTATIONS

- 1 Ah, how lonely lies the city,
once so full of folk,
once a power among the na-
tions,
now like a poor widow!
Once she queened it over towns,
and is now a thrall!—
- 2 sobbing sorely in the night,
tears upon her cheek;
of all her allies there is none
to aid her;
her friends have all betrayed her
and turned foes.
- 3 To an exile of sad slavery
Judah departed,
to settle among pagans,
with no peace;
and in her anguish her pursuers
overtook her.
- 4 The paths to Sion are woebe-
gone,
bereft of pilgrims;
her gates are all deserted,
and her priests despair,
her maidens have been dragged
away,
her lot is bitter.
- 5 Her foes have now the upper
hand,
her enemies exult—
it is her punishment from the
Eternal
for her many sins.
Foes force her children into
exile
in front of them;
- 6 from Sion all her splendour
has departed;
her leaders are like harts that
find
no pasture,
the pursuer drives them feebly
in front of him.
- 7 Jerusalem recalls
her stress and scattering,
- when helpless her folk fell
into the foeman's hand,
and the foe gazed gloating
on her downfall.
Jerusalem, for her dire sins, 8
is flung aside;
all who honoured her despise
her—
they have seen her naked
shame;
she moans the while
and turns her face away.
- Her filth clung to her skirts, 9
she was a fetid rag;
she never thought of what
would follow,
and so her fall was tragic.
“How insolent are the foes, O
thou Eternal!
See what I suffer!”
The foe has laid his hands 10
on all her treasures;
she has seen pagans pushing
into her shrine,
men thou didst forbid to enter
thy community.
- All her folk are moaning 11
in search for food,
bartering their treasures
for bare sustenance.
“Behold, O thou Eternal,
how I am abased!
And you who pass by, look, 12
look all of you and see
if there is any agony like this
dealt out to me,
by the Eternal in his anger fierce
afflicting me.
- He sent a fever down 13
to waste my limbs;
he spread a net to catch my
feet;
he thwarted me;
faint he left me and forlorn,
all the day long.

- 14 He singled out my sins,
then twisted them together,
and bound them as a yoke upon
my neck,
till I am worn;
the Lord has consigned me to a
foe
whom I cannot withstand.
- 15 The Lord has flouted
all my heroes,
he has summoned a triumphant
host
to shatter my warriors;
in the winepress the Lord has
trampled
upon Judah.
- 16 For all this I weep,
tears stream from my eyes;
none beside me to relieve me,
none to revive me;
my children lie forlorn,
for the foe has prevailed."
- 17 Zion is stretching her hands
out,
but none relieves her;
for the Eternal has ordered all
around
to oppose Jacob,
and Jerusalem is but to them
a fetid rag.
- 18 "The Eternal is right,
for I did rebel!
But listen, O peoples, all of you,
look at my agony;
my maidens and my youth
are in captivity.
- 19 I called to my allies,
and they failed me;
in the city my priests and
sheikhs
are dying of hunger,
searching for bare sustenance,
and searching all in vain.
- 20 O thou Eternal, consider my
anguish,
my soul is wretched,
my heart writhing,
and my vitals burn;
- outside, the sword is slaying,
and inside, the plague.
- Listen to my moaning, 21
with none to relieve me.
My foes have all heard of my
plight—
and they are glad of it,
glad thou hast punished me, as
thou didst threaten,
for my sins.
- But let their evil hour arrive, 22
let them fare as I fare;
as thou hast done to me,
so do to them—
give them as many groans as
mine,
a heart as sore!"
- How the Lord has shamed in 2
his anger
maiden Sion,
hurling from heaven to earth
the splendour of Israel,
remembering not, on the day of
his fury,
his Footstool!
- The Lord has ruined ruthlessly 3
the homesteads of Jacob,
lowering and levelling
the strongholds of Judah,
degrading in his wrath
her king and nobles.
- He has shattered in fierce anger 3
all the force of Israel,
withdrawing his right hand from
them
as they faced the foe.
He has burned in Jacob like a
fire
devouring all around.
- Like a foe he has bent his 4
bow,
and fitted his arrows;
he slaughters and kills the chil-
dren,
the delight of our eyes,
in the tent of maiden Sion he
pours out
like fire his fury.

- 5 The Lord has become our enemy,
ruining Israel,
ruining all her citadels
and shattering her strongholds,
heaping upon maiden Sion
wails and woe.
- 6 He has torn the fence down like a robber,
demolished his own shrine,
abolished within Sion
feast and sabbath,
spurned aside in indignation
king and priest alike.
- 7 The Lord has discarded his own altar,
scorned his sanctuary,
and let the foe lay hands upon
the ark of the compact.
What shouts they raised in the
Eternal's house,
as in an orgy!
- 8 The Eternal was determined to destroy
the walls of maiden Sion;
he planned it all,
his hand was in the havoc;
rampart and wall—he made
them all
lament and totter.
- 9 Her gates have sunk to the ground,
her bars are broken.
Her king and nobles are exiled;
there is no law;
her very prophets are without
a vision from the Eternal;
they sit in silence on the ground,
- 10 the sheikhs of maiden Sion;
and, with dust flung on their heads,
with sackcloth round their loins,
with head bowed to the ground,
there are the maids of Jerusalem!
- 11 My eyes are worn with tears,
my soul is wretched,
- my heart is melting
for the wreck of my people,
for babies and infants swooning
in the city-streets,
crying to their mothers 12
for their food,
swooning like men wounded
in the city-streets,
gasping out their lives
in their mothers' bosom.
- To what can I compare you, 13
dear Jerusalem?
To what can I liken you, for
your comfort,
O maiden Sion?
Your wreck is vast as the ocean;
who can repair you?
Your prophets? ah, their 14
dreams for you
were false and flattering;
they never made you see your
sin,
to save you from captivity—
all the dreams they had for
you
deceived you and misled you.
- Now all who pass 15
clap their hands over you,
hissing and tossing their heads
over maiden Jerusalem;
"So this is the peerless Beauty,
the Joy of all the earth?"
Your foes all yell 16
against you,
hissing with clenched teeth,
"We have ruined her!
This is the day we longed for!
It has come, we see it at
last!"
- The Eternal has done as he 17
planned,
has carried out his word,
as he fixed long ago;
he wrecks you ruthlessly,
makes foemen rejoice over you,
and swells their forces.
- Cry aloud to the Lord, 18
O maiden Sion!

- let the tears stream down
by day and night,
give yourself no respite,
give your eyes no rest.
- 19 Rise and cry in the night,
as the night-watches come
round,
pour out your heart like water
before the Lord,
lift hands of prayer to him
over what he has done to you:
- 20 "Consider, O Eternal,
whom thou art handling thus!
Are women to eat their children,
the babes they have fondled?
Are priests and prophets to be
murdered
in thy sanctuary?
- 21 All over the street they lie,
both young and old,
my maidens and my youth
killed without quarter,
slain by thee, on thy day of
anger,
slaughtered without pity;
- 22 thou hast summoned the ter-
rors of war all around
to a triumph,
and all whom I nursed and
nurtured
the foe has destroyed,
not a soul has escaped, not one
survived,
on the day of thine anger."
- 3 I am the man who has suffered
under the rod of his anger;
- 2 I am the man he has been lead-
ing
on a dark, unlighted road;
- 3 he has baffled me over and
again,
all the day long;
- 4 he has worn away my skin and
flesh,
and broken my bones;
- 5 he has piled troubles up against
me,
right round my head;
- he has made me dwell in the 6
dark,
like men long dead;
he has walled me round, till I 7
cannot go out,
he has loaded me with chains;
and when I fain would cry for 8
help,
he stops my prayer;
he blocks my way with boul- 9
ders,
till my course is twisted;
he lurks for me like a bear, 10
like a lion in ambush;
he has chased me and mangled 11
me
and left me all forlorn;
he has bent his bow and made 12
me
a target for his arrows;
he has driven his shafts home, 13
right into me;
I am the butt of all nations, 14
the burden of their satire all
day long.
He has filled me up with bitter 15
herbs,
and sated me with worm-
wood;
he has broken my teeth with 16
gravel,
and covered me with ashes.
He has bereft me of all bliss, 17
I forget what it is to prosper,
I said, "My strength is gone, 18
and my hope in the Eter-
nal!"
The thought of my stress and 19
scattering
is bitterness to me;
my soul is always thinking of it, 20
and is crushed within me.
- But I will call to mind, 21
to give me hope,
that the Eternal's love is last- 22
ing,
and will never fail.
"Fresh every morning is thy 23
kindness,
great is thy faithfulness!"

- 24 The Eternal is my allotted
 share, I say,
 therefore I will hope in him.
 25 The Eternal is good to those
 who wait for him,
 to a soul that seeks him.
 26 It is good to wait in silence
 for the help of the Eternal;
 27 it is good to bear without a word
 the rebuke of the Eternal;
 28 let a man sit alone in silence,
 since it is the Eternal's hand;
 29 let him lay his lips to the dust—
 there may be hope for him;
 30 let him offer his cheek to the
 striker,
 and suffer all man's taunts.
 31 For the Lord will not always
 discard life;
 32 he wounds, but he has pity,
 so rich is his love;
 33 he is loth to pain or grieve
 the sons of men.
 34 When a whole people is taken
 prisoner
 and downtrodden,
 35 when a man is deprived of his
 rights,
 under the eyes of the Most
 High,
 36 when a man does not get jus-
 tice,
 does the Lord not see it?
 37 Who can carry out his will,
 unless it is the Lord's order?
 38 Are not weal and woe alike
 decreed by the Most High?
 39 Then why should mortal men
 complain,
 when they are punished for
 their sins?
 40 Let us scan and search our
 lives,
 let us return to the Eternal,
 41 lifting our hearts up with our
 hands
 to God in heaven;
 42 "The sin is ours, we have re-
 belled,
 and thou—thou hast not par-
 doned;
 thou hast veiled thy face in
 anger,
 pursuing us without pity;
 thou hast covered thyself with
 a cloud
 no prayer can pierce;
 thou hast made us mere scum
 and refuse
 in the world;
 our foes all yell
 against us;
 dismay and destruction befall
 us,
 ravage and ruin."

 Tears are flooding from my eyes 48
 for the ruin of my people;
 my eyes are sore with sorrow 51
 for all the woes of my city;
 my eyes stream without ceasing, 49
 without rest,
 till the Eternal will look down 50
 from heaven above.
 They have chased me like a 52
 bird,
 with no reason for their hate;
 they dropped me to die in a 53
 dungeon,
 flinging stones at me;
 waters flowed over my head, 54
 "I am lost," I said.
 From the depth of the dungeon 55
 I called,
 O Eternal, to thee;
 thou didst hear me crying, 56
 "Give ear to my plea";
 thou camest at my call, 57
 bidding me, "Fear not."
 O Lord, thou didst take my 58
 part
 and save my life.
 And now thou seest my wrongs; 59
 oh vindicate me!
 Thou hast seen all the revenge 60
 they have plotted against me,
 hast heard all the insults 61
 they plotted against me,
 the talk of the men who attack 62
 me,
 their muttering all the day
 long.

- 63 Look at them, sitting or rising—
I am the burden of their
satire!
- 64 Thou wilt requite them, O Eter-
nal,
for all they have done;
- 65 thou wilt blind their vision—
thy curse be upon them!—
- 66 thou wilt chase them angrily,
and crush them out of life.
- 4 Ah! how the gold is dimmed,
the gold so pure!
the sacred gems are scattered
over every street;
- 2 the priceless sons of Sion,
worth their weight in gold,
count no more than crockery,
mere pots of clay!
- 3 Even jackals give the breast
and suckle their whelps;
but the women of my people
are cruel
as the ostrich wild;
- 4 for the tongue of the nursling
cleaves for thirst
to the roof of its mouth,
the children beg for food,
and no one gives it.
- 5 Those who fared on dainties
rot upon the street;
those who lay on scarlet rugs
huddle on an ash-heap.
- 6 The guilt of my people was
greater
than even the sin of Sodom,
Sodom that fell in a flash,
ere any could wring his hands.
- 7 Her headmen were brighter
than snow,
and whiter than milk,
ruddier than rubies,
their bodies veined like sap-
phires;
- 8 and now they look more dark-
some than the night—
none knows them as they
pass—
- their skin drawn tight over the
bone,
dry as a stick.
- Better to die by the sword 9
than by starving,
stabbed to death by hunger
suddenly in the field!
- The hands of tender women 10
have sodden their own chil-
dren,
making that their food,
amid the wreck.
- The Eternal has carried out his 11
fury,
vented his hot anger,
lit a fire in Sion
that burns her to the base.
- None could believe, no king, 12
no man in all the world,
that foe or enemy could ever
enter
inside Jerusalem.
- It was all for the sin of her 13
prophets,
for the crime of her priests,
who shed in her
the blood of the just.
- Now, stained with blood, they 14
wander
blindly about the streets,
brushing against men
they once avoided.
- Men shout to them, "Begone! 15
you are unclean!
begone! avoid us!"
- So they stagger and wander
abroad,
finding no shelter;
the Eternal himself has scat- 16
tered them,
caring nothing for them,
regardless of the priests,
and heedless of the prophets.
- Our eyes are strained and fail- 17
ing,
as we look for aid unavailing;

- we are watching for a nation
that never brought salva-
tion.
- 18 Foes dog our steps,
till we dare not walk abroad;
our days are numbered and
over,
for our end has come.
- 19 More swift were our pursuers
than eagles of the air,
hunting us over the hills,
ambushing us on the wolds;
- 20 they trapped the king, the Eter-
nal's choice,
the breath of our lives,
of whom we said, "Under his
reign
we shall hold out, among the
nations!"
- 21 Rejoice and be glad in your
home-land,
O maiden Edom!
But the cup will come round to
you,
and leave you drunk and di-
shevelled.
- 22 Sion, your guilt is over and
gone—
no more exile for you!
But, Edom, your guilt shall be
punished,
your sins laid bare!
- 5 Consider our plight, O Eter-
nal,
ah, look at our disgrace—
- 2 our heritage handed to foreign-
ers,
our homes to aliens;
- 3 fatherless orphans are we,
our mothers are like widows;
- 4 we must buy our own water,
our wood has to be paid
for;
- 6 we surrendered to the foe,
thinking to get food enough;
- but they have borne hard on 5
us,
we toil and get no rest.
Our fathers sinned; they are no 7
more,
but we must bear their guilt.
Slaves lord it over us, 8
with none to rescue us;
we get in our corn at the risk 9
of our lives
from Arabs of the desert;
our skin glows like an oven, 10
with the fever-heat of famine.
- Women are ravished in Sion, 11
and girls in the towns of
Judah;
nobles hung up by the hand, 12
and sheikhs outraged.
Nobles stoop to grind at the 13
mill,
lords stagger with loads of
logs;
no sheikhs sit at the city-gates, 14
no young men at their music!
Gone all that gave our hearts 15
delight,
our dancing turned to mourn-
ing;
the crown has fallen from our 16
head!
Ah, woe to us, we have
sinned!
And this makes our heart faint, 17
and this makes our eyes dim,
that Sion hill lies desolate, 18
with jackals roaming over it.
Thou art enthroned for ever, O 19
Eternal,
reigning from age to age.
Why wilt thou never remember 20
us,
forsaking us all these years?
Restore us, O Eternal, let us 21
return,
renew our days as of yore—
unless thou hast utterly dis- 22
carded us
in anger all too sore!

EZEKIEL

1 It was in the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month, as I was among the exiles at the river Kēbar, that heaven opened and I saw visions
2 of God. [[It was on the fifth day of the month, in the fifth year of king Jehoiakin's exile, that the word of the Eternal came to the priest Ezekiel the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans, at the river Kēbar.]]
3 The hand of the Eternal was on me in a trance, and as I gazed, there was a storm-wind blowing from the north!—a huge cloud with fire flashing out of it, and with a sheen encircling it and issuing from it, the colour of
4 amber. Out of it appeared the forms of four Creatures, and this was their appearance: they had
5 the same form, each with four faces and four wings, with limbs straight and gleaming like burnished bronze, and with the soles of their feet rounded like
6 the feet of calves. Under their wings, on the four sides of them, were human hands. As for their
7 four faces and wings—their wings touched one another, and their faces never turned as they moved; each moved straight
8 forward. As for the likeness of their faces—all four had in front the face of a man, on the right the face of an eagle, on the left the face of a bull, and the face
9 of an eagle at the back. Their wings were stretched out, one pair to touch the next Creature, the other pair to cover the body.
10 Each moved straight forward; wherever the Spirit impelled them to go they went, never turning as they moved. Also,
11 in the middle of the Creatures

there was Something moving to and fro, like glowing coals, like torches, a fire that gleamed and flashed out lightning. As I gazed, there was a wheel on the ground beside each of the four Creatures! The wheels were the colour of a topaz, and all four had the same shape, arranged as if one wheel were inside the other. When they moved, they moved in any direction that their four sides faced, never turning as they moved. The felloes and spokes of the four, I saw, were full of eyes all round. Whenever the Creatures moved, the wheels moved with them, and whenever the Creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose with them; wherever the Spirit impelled them to go they went, for a living Spirit was in the wheels. When the Creatures moved, they moved; when the Creatures stood still, they stood still; when the Creatures rose from earth, they rose; for a living Spirit was in these wheels.

Above the Creatures there was the semblance of a vault, which looked like crystal, stretching over their heads, and under the vault their wings were level, one pair of each touching the next Creatures and one pair covering their bodies. Whenever they moved, I heard their wings sound like the sound of many waters, like the thunder of the Almighty, the sound of a tumult like the sound of a host; when they stood still, they dropped their wings. Above the vault over their heads was the semblance of a throne, blue like a sapphire, and on the

throne-like appearance there was the semblance of a human
 27 form; from the waist upwards I saw something glowing like amber or fire, from the waist downwards there was something resembling fire, while all around
 28 there was a bright halo like the rainbow that appears in the clouds after the rain. Such was the appearance of what resembled the Splendour of the Eternal.

When I saw it, I fell on my face; then I heard the voice of
 2 one speaking; he said to me, "Son of man, stand up and I
 3 will speak to you." As he spoke, the Spirit entered me and made me stand upon my feet. I heard
 3 him address me. "Son of man," he said, "I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious race who have rebelled against me; they and their fathers have sinned against me down to this
 4 day. I am sending you to them, impudent and obstinate that they are, and you must tell them
 5 what the Eternal says. Whether they will listen or refuse to listen (for they are a rebellious folk), they shall learn that there is a
 6 prophet among them. Son of man, fear them not, fear not what they say, although they cut and wound you, although they strike and sting you—fear not what they say, dread not their scowls (for they are a rebel-
 7 lious folk). Tell them what I say, whether they will listen or refuse to listen (for they are a
 8 rebellious folk). Son of man, listen to what I say; be not rebellious like this rebellious folk; open your mouth and eat
 9 what I am giving you." Then I looked, and there was a hand stretched out to me, holding a
 10 written scroll! When he un-

rolled it before me, it was written all over, outside as well as inside, with laments and dirges and woes. "Son of man," he
 3 said, "eat this scroll, then go and speak to Israel." So I
 2 opened my mouth and he made me eat the scroll, telling me,
 3 "Son of man, swallow and digest this scroll I am giving you." When I ate it, the scroll tasted sweet as honey in my mouth. "Son of man," he said to me, "go
 4 to Israel and speak my words to them. It is to no people of a
 5 foreign tongue or a difficult language that you are sent, but to Israel. It is to no foreign
 6 nations whose language you could not understand. No, if I sent you to them, they would listen to you! But Israel will
 7 not listen to you, for they will not listen to me. Defiant and stubborn are they, every one of them. But I will make you as
 8 defiant and as stubborn, I will
 9 make your temper unyielding as adamant, harder than flint; fear them not, dread not their scowls (for they are a rebellious folk). Son of man," he added,
 10 "attend and listen to all I tell you; then go to the exiles, to the
 11 members of your race, and tell them what the Eternal says, whether they will listen or refuse to listen."

Then the Spirit picked me up
 12 (I heard behind me a loud sound of rustling as the Splendour of the Eternal rose from its place; it was the noise made by the
 13 wings of the Creatures touching one another and by the wheels beside them)—the Spirit picked
 14 me up and carried me away; I went away hot and indignant (for the hand of the Eternal pressed hard upon me), and
 15 reached the exiles living at Tel-

abib by the river Kēbar. There I sat for seven days among
 16 them, overwhelmed. At the end of seven days this word from the Eternal came to me:
 17 "Son of man, I appoint you a sentinel to Israel; whenever you hear a word from me, you must
 18 give them my warning. When I tell the wicked, 'You must die,' if you do not warn him, if
 you say nothing to warn the wicked from his wicked course, in order to save his life, then that wicked man shall die for his iniquity, but I will hold you
 19 responsible for his death. If you do warn the wicked, and if he will not give up his wickedness and wicked course, he shall die for his iniquity, but you have
 20 saved yourself. Again, if a good man gives up his goodness to commit iniquity, when I put temptation before him, he shall die, because you have not given him warning, he shall die of his sin, for the good deeds he has done shall not be remembered; only, I will hold you responsible
 21 for his death. But if you warn the good man not to sin, and if he does not sin, he shall live, because he took warning; and you have saved yourself."
 22 The hand of the Eternal was upon me in a trance. He said to me, "Get away to the valley, and I will talk to you there."
 23 So I started off to the valley, and there stood the Splendour of the Eternal, like the Splendour I had seen beside the river
 24 Kēbar! I fell on my face. But the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet; then he spoke to me, saying, "Go and shut yourself up inside your house."
 25 Son of man, you are to be roped and bound, and never to go out
 26 to them; I will make your

tongue cleave to your palate, till you cannot talk or censure them (for they are a rebellious folk). But when I talk to you I will
 27 open your mouth, and you must tell them what the Lord the Eternal says, whether they listen or refuse to listen (for they are a rebellious folk).

Son of man, take a brick and
 4 put it in front of you; trace upon it a city, the city of Jerusalem, and lay siege to it, run trenches,
 2 raise a mound against it, pitch troops against it, and place battering rams around it. Also
 3 take an iron plate and place it as an iron wall between yourself and the city; turn your face to it, to make it besieged, and lay siege to the city. This is an omen for Israel. Then lie on
 4 your left side. I am making you bear the punishment of Israel; you must bear it for the number of days you lie upon your side. I assign you for the years of
 5 their punishment an equal number of days, one hundred and ninety; so shall you bear the punishment of Israel. And,
 6 when you have completed this, you must lie on your right side and bear the punishment of Judah for forty days; a day for
 a year I assign you. As for the
 7 siege of Jerusalem, you must turn your face and bare your arm and prophesy against the city. And I fasten you with
 8 cords that you may not turn from one side to the other till you complete the days of your
 95 siege. During the days you are lying on your side . . . you
 10 must ration your food, eating only eight ounces a day and eating at fixed intervals, and
 11 you must ration your water, drinking only two pints and at

- 16 fixed intervals. Son of man," he added, "I will break the support of their life in Jerusalem; they will have to ration their bread with anxious faces and ration their water in dismay, 17 till they lack bread and water and are all dismayed and waste away under their punishment. 18 But take wheat and barley, beans and lentils, millet and spelt, put them into a single vessel and make some food for yourself; eat it cooked like barley cakes, and bake it before 12 their eyes on human dung, telling them this from the Eternal, the God of Israel, 'So shall the Israelites have to eat impure food among the nations.'" 13 "But, O Lord the Eternal," I said, "never from my boyhood have I defiled myself, never have I eaten anything that died a natural death or was torn to pieces, never have I touched a morsel of carrion!" "Well," 15 he said to me, "I will let you have cows' dung instead of human dung to prepare your food.
- 5 Son of man, take a sharp sword and ply it like a barber's razor, running it over your head and beard. Then take a pair of scales and divide the hair; 2 burn a third of it in the fire that is blazing inside the city after the siege is over, strike a third of it with the sword all round the city, and scatter a third of it to 3 the winds. [[However, take a few hairs and wrap them in the 4 fold of your robe; of these again take and burn some in the fire.]] Then give this message from the Lord the Eternal to the whole 5 community of Israel: 'This Jerusalem! I placed her in the centre of the nations, with the lands of the world around her, and she has rebelled against my 6 laws and orders, sinning worse than the nations and the lands around her; for her folk have set aside my orders and they have not lived by my laws. This therefore is the sentence 7 of the Lord the Eternal: Because you have been worse rebels than the nations around you, because you have not lived by my laws nor followed my orders but have followed the practices of the nations around you, therefore—it is the sentence of the Lord the Eternal— 8 I am against you, I am; I will inflict punishment upon you before the eyes of the nations, and do to you what I have never 9 done before, a thing that I will never do again, owing to all your detestable deeds. Within you, 10 fathers shall eat their sons, and sons shall eat their fathers! I will inflict punishment upon you, and scatter all your survivors to the winds. By my life! 11 —it is the sentence of the Lord the Eternal—as you have polluted my sanctuary with all your loathsome and detestable impieties, I am going to cut you down, I will have neither mercy nor 12 pity; a third of your folk shall die within your walls of pestilence and famine, a third shall fall by the sword around your walls, and a third I will scatter to the four winds and pursue them with a sword. Thus my 13 anger shall be visited on them and my fury appeared; it will ease my mind, and it will let them know that I the Eternal spoke in just resentment when I visited my fury upon them. I will turn you into a desolate 14 ruin, an object of scorn to every passer-by; you shall be scorned 15 and derided, a warning and a

wonder to the nations around you, when I inflict punishment upon you in anger and fury and
 16 my furious rebukes, when I hurl at you my deadly arrows to destroy you, when I send famine after you and break the support
 17 of your life, when I send wild beasts to prey upon you, when pestilence and bloodshed sweep across you, and I send the sword against you. I the Eternal have given sentence."

6 This word from the Eternal
 2 came to me: "Son of man, turn to the mountains of Israel and
 3 prophesy thus to them: O mountains of Israel, listen to the word of doom from the Lord the Eternal. The Lord the Eternal declares to the mountains, the hills, the ravines, and the valleys: I bring a sword against you, I will destroy your shrines,
 4 your altars shall be demolished,
 5 your sun-pillars shattered, your corpses laid low in front of your idols, and your bones scattered
 6 about your altars. Wherever people dwell, the villages shall be laid waste and the shrines ruined, that your altars may be waste and desolate, that your idols may be shattered to nothing, that your sun-pillars may be cut down, and all you have
 7 constructed blotted out; men shall fall slain among you, and you shall learn that I am the
 8 Eternal. But when some of you escape the sword and are
 9 scattered in foreign lands, then those of you who escape will remember me amid the nations where they lie in exile, remembering that I will crush the hearts that break their troth with me and the eyes that turn lustfully to their idols; they shall loathe themselves for the wick-

edness they have committed, for all their detestable ways, and learn that I am the Eternal 10 —it was not in vain that I said I would bring this evil upon them.

Clap your hands, says the 11 Lord the Eternal, stamp your feet, and shout 'Aha! for all the detestable deeds of Israel'; for they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. He 12 who is far away shall die of pestilence, he who is near shall fall by the sword, and he who is besieged shall die of famine; so will I glut my fury upon them. They shall learn that I 13 am the Eternal, when their slain men lie among their idols around about their altars, at every shrine on the top of every hill and under every green tree and below every leafy terebinth, where they used to offer fragrant smoke to their idols. I 14 will strike at them and lay the land waste and desolate, wherever they dwell, from the south desert up to Riblah; it will teach them that I am the Eternal."

* * *

This word from the Eternal 7 also came to me: "Son of man, 2 here is the Lord the Eternal's message for the land of Israel. 'The hour has come, the hour has come, on the four quarters of the land! The hour has come 3 for you; I will hurl my wrath upon you and punish you for your conduct and requite you for all your detestable doings; I will have neither mercy nor 4 pity, I will requite you for your conduct and confront you with your detestable doings; it will teach you that I am the Eternal. [Evil on evil! says the Lord the 5 Eternal—it is coming, the 6 hour has come, the hour is

- striking, and striking at you,
 7 the hour and the end! Your doom has come, O dweller in the land! The time draws on, the day is near, a day with panic and no merry shouts upon the hills. Soon will I vent my
 8 fury on you and execute my anger against you. I will punish you for your conduct and requite you for all your detestable
 9 doings; I will have neither mercy nor pity; I will visit your doings on your head, and confront you with your detestable deeds; it will teach you that I, the Eternal, can strike.]]
 10 Here is the day! It has dawned! Your doom appears; your sin has blossomed and your pride has budded. . . .
 12 The time has come, the day draws near! The buyer need not rejoice, and the seller need not lament, for wrath falls upon the entire city. Never, so long
 13 as they live, shall the sellers get back to their estates, and none shall prosper by iniquitous dealing.
 14 The trumpet is sounded, and all is prepared; but none marches out to the fight, for my wrath falls upon the entire city.
 15 Outside, the sword; inside, pestilence and famine! A man in the open country falls by the sword, a man inside the city is consumed by famine and by
 16 pestilence; and if any survivors escape, they shall all be hiding in the hills, mourning over their sins, moaning like doves of the
 17 valley. Their hands shall all be limp, their knees as weak as
 18 water; they shall put sackcloth round their waist and shave their heads, they shall be covered with terror, their faces with
 19 shame; they shall fling their silver into the streets and loathe

their gold with disgust; for on the day of the Eternal's anger no silver or gold can save them or satisfy their appetite. Money has been their ruin and their sin; they prided themselves
 20 upon the beauty of their silver and their gold, and made out of them detestable and loathsome idols; therefore I will make their
 21 temple a disgust to them and hand it over to foreigners as plunder and to knaves of the world as booty, to profane it; I
 22 will turn my face away and let these creatures profane my precious place; robbers shall invade it and profane it and disorder it. For the land is full of bloody
 23 crimes, the city is filled with violence. So I will bring in the
 24 worst of pagans to take possession of the houses, and I will put an end to the strength on which the land prided itself, and let their sanctuaries be profaned. When anguish comes,
 25 they shall seek peace, and peace there shall be none. Disaster on disaster, rumour upon rumour! The prophet is deprived of vision, the priest is bereft of instruction, and aged counsellors have not a word to say; the authorities shall be wrapt in
 27 dismay, and the common folk shall be a-tremble. I will treat them as they have behaved, and punish them for their practices—to teach them that I am the Eternal.”

* * *

In the sixth year, on the fifth 8 day of the sixth month, as I was sitting in my house, with the sheikhs of Judah sitting in front of me, the hand of the Lord the Eternal fell upon me in a trance. As I gazed, there was a form 2 resembling a man!—from the waist downwards, like fire, and

from the waist upwards, glowing
 3 like amber. He put out the
 form of a hand and caught me
 by a lock of my hair; then the
 Spirit lifted me between earth
 and heaven and brought me, in
 visions of God, to Jerusalem, to
 the door of the north gateway
 into the inner court where the
 idol stood which provoked the
 4 Eternal to resentment. There
 stood the Splendour of the God
 of Israel, as I had seen it in the
 5 valley! "Son of man," he said
 to me, "turn your eyes to the
 north." So I turned my eyes
 to the north, and there, north
 of the gate opposite the altar,
 stood this idol which he re-
 6 sented! "Son of man," he said,
 "do you see what they are
 doing? Do you see the horrible
 impieties that the Israelites are
 practising here, forcing me to
 leave my sanctuary? You shall
 7 see worse than that." And he
 took me to the door of the court.
 As I looked, I saw a hole in the
 8 wall. "Son of man," he said,
 "break through the wall." So
 I broke through, and there was
 9 a door! "Go inside," he said,
 "look at the detestable impieties
 10 they are practising here." So
 I went and looked; there, pic-
 tured all round the wall, were
 all kinds of vermin and reptiles,
 loathsome representations, and
 11 all the idols of Israel! In front
 of them stood seventy of the
 sheikhs of Israel, with Jaazaniah
 the son of Shaphan, every man
 holding a censer, from which
 rose the scent of incense in
 12 clouds. "Son of man," he said,
 "do you see what the sheikhs of
 Israel are doing in the dark,
 each offering incense to his idol?
 They think, 'The Eternal can-
 not see us, the Eternal has left
 the land.'" Then he added,

"You shall see still worse"; 13
 and he took me to the outer door 14
 of the north gateway into the
 Eternal's temple, where I saw
 women waiting for Tammuz.
 "Son of man," he said, "do you 15
 see that? You shall see even
 worse." And he took me back 16
 into the inner court of the
 Eternal's temple, where, at the
 very door of the temple of the
 Eternal, between the porch and
 the altar, I saw about twenty-
 five men, with their backs to
 the temple of the Eternal and
 their faces turned to the east,
 worshipping the sun in the east.
 "Do you see that, O son of 17
 man?" he asked. "And is it too
 slight a thing for Judah to prac-
 tise these detestable impieties
 of theirs here? Must they also
 fill the land with violence and
 anger me still further? They
 are filling my nostrils with their
 stench! But I will take action 18
 in my fury, I will have neither
 mercy nor pity upon them [[I
 will not listen to them, even
 if they call to me at the pitch of
 their voices]]."

Then I heard him shouting at 9
 the pitch of his voice, "Come
 here, you executioners of the
 city, each with his deadly
 weapon!" And six men came 2
 from the direction of the upper
 gate that faces north, each
 holding a battle-axe, and accom-
 panied by another man in linen
 dress, with a writer's ink-horn
 at his side. They passed inside
 the temple, and stood at the
 bronze altar. Now the Splen- 3
 dour of the God of Israel had
 ascended from the kherubs on
 which it rested and gone to the
 threshold of the temple. He
 called to the man in linen, with
 the writer's ink-horn, and said 4
 to him, "Go through the city of

Jerusalem and put a mark upon the foreheads of the men who bewail and bemoan all the detestable impieties that are being practised here." And I heard him say to the others, "Follow him through the city and strike, without mercy or pity, kill old men, young men, maidens, children, women—kill them, kill, but never touch anyone with the mark; and begin at my sanctuary." So they began with the sheikhs in front of the temple. "Pollute the temple," he cried, "fill the temple-courts with corpses; then out to the city!" So they went off to kill throughout the city. While they were killing, I was left alone; and I fell on my face, crying, "Ah, Lord Eternal! wilt thou destroy all that is left of Israel, in this outburst of thy fury against Jerusalem?" He answered, "The iniquity of Israel and Judah is enormous, the land is full of bloodshed, the city is full of rampant injustice; for men think that the Eternal has left the land, the Eternal will never see them. No, I will have neither mercy nor pity upon them, I will make them suffer for their conduct." And the man in linen with the ink-horn made his report: "I have obeyed thine orders." He said to the man in linen, "Go in between the whirling wheels under the kherubs, fill your hands with blazing coals from the fire between the kherubs, and scatter the coals over the city." I saw him go in. When he went in, the kherubs were standing on the south side of the temple; a cloud filled the inner court. When the Splendour of the Eternal ascended from the kherubs and went to the thresh-

old of the temple, the temple was filled with the cloud, and the inner court was filled with radiance from the Splendour of the Eternal. The noise made by the wings of the kherubs was heard even in the outer court, loud as the thunder of God Almighty when he speaks. So, when he told the man in linen to take some fire from between the whirling wheels, between the kherubs, he put his hand into the fire between the kherubs and took some; then he went out. As I gazed, I saw four wheels beside the kherubs, one beside each of the kherubs; they resembled a topaz in colour: all four had the same shape, and they were arranged as if one wheel were inside the other. When they moved, they moved in the direction of any of their four sides, never turning as they moved, but following their front wherever it faced. The fellows and spokes of the four wheels were full of eyes all round, and I myself heard the wheels called "the whirling wheels." Whenever the kherubs moved, the wheels moved with them; whenever the kherubs spread their wings to rise from the earth, the wheels never left them; when the kherubs stood still, the wheels stood still, and when the kherubs rose, they rose along with them—for a living Spirit was in the wheels. Then the Splendour of the Eternal left the threshold of the temple and stood over the kherubs; I saw the kherubs spread their wings and rise from the earth as they withdrew, accompanied by the wheels; they stood outside the door of the east gateway into the Eternal's temple, and over them was the Splendour of the

20 God of Israel. These were the
Creatures I had seen at the
river Kēbar under the God of
Israel; I recognized them as
21 kherubs. Each had four faces
and four wings, and under their
wings the semblance of human
22 hands. As for the semblance
of their faces, they were the
faces I had seen at the river
Kēbar.

11 The Spirit lifted me up and
brought me to the eastern gate-
way of the Eternal's temple;
and there, at the door of the
gateway, I saw twenty-five men,
among whom I noticed Jaaza-
niah the son of Azzur and Pela-
tiah the son of Benaiah, the
2 popular leaders! "Son of man,"
he said to me, "these are the
men who make wicked plans
and offer evil counsel in this
3 city; they argue, 'Houses have
been recently rebuilding; all is
well! The city is a cauldron,
and we are the flesh, safe inside
4 it!' So prophesy against them,
5 prophesy, O son of man." Then
the Spirit of the Eternal seized
me; he said to me, "Utter this
word from the Eternal: 'So you
think, O Israel! I know what
6 occurs to your mind! But it is
the many men you have mur-
dered in this city, heaping the
7 streets with their corpses, it is
these murdered men, laid low
by you, it is they—says the Lord
Eternal—they who are to be the
flesh inside this cauldron of a
city; as for you, I will drag you
8 out of it. You are in terror of
the sword, and I will bring the
sword upon you—says the Lord
9 the Eternal. Out of the city I
will drag you, and hand you
over to foreigners; I will inflict
10 punishment upon you, by the
sword shall you fall, and I will

punish you at the far borders of
Israel—to teach you that I am
the Eternal. This city shall be 11
no cauldron for you; you shall
not be the flesh inside it, safe
and sound! At the far borders
of Israel I will punish you—to 12
teach you that I am the Eternal;
for you have not lived by my
laws, you have not carried out
my orders, you have followed
the practices of the nations
around you.'” As I was deliv- 13
ering this prediction, Pela-
tiah the son of Benaiah died.
Then I fell on my face and cried
aloud, "Alas, O Lord Eternal,
wilt thou wipe out the survivors
of Israel?" Then this word 14
from the Eternal came to me,
"Son of man, the citizens of 15
Jerusalem say of your kinsmen,
your fellow-exiles, the entire
community of Israel, 'You are
far away from the Eternal; this
land belongs to us.' Say this 16
therefore: The Lord the Eternal
declares, 'True, I have sent
them afar among the nations
and scattered them over foreign
lands; but I will be a sanctuary
for them in their place of exile
for a while, and then—says the 17
Lord the Eternal—I will gather
them from the nations and col-
lect them from the countries
where they have been scattered
and give them the land of Israel;
they shall come back and clear 18
it of all its loathsome and detest-
able impieties. And I will give 19
them a new nature and put a
new spirit into them, I will re-
move their hard nature and
give them a nature that can be
touched, that they may live by 20
my laws and observe and obey
my orders; and they shall be my
own people, and I will be their
God. But as for these others, 21
who are devoted to their loath-

some practices and detestable impieties, I will make them suffer for their conduct, says the Lord the Eternal." Then the kherubs spread their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the Splendour of the God of Israel over them both; and the Splendour of the Eternal ascended from the midst of the city and stood upon the mountains to the east of the city. Then the Spirit lifted me and brought me in the vision back to the exiles in Chaldaea. The vision I saw departed from me, and I told the exiles all that the Eternal had shown me.

12 This word from the Eternal came to me: "Son of man, you are living among rebellious folk who have eyes and will not see, who have ears and will not listen—a rebellious folk. Son of man, prepare your outfit for exile; let them see you moving in broad daylight, let them see you removing out of your house; perhaps they will understand, though they are a rebellious folk. Let them see you moving your stuff by day, as though for exile; then let them see you leaving yourself in the evening, as exiles leave. Let them see you breaking through the town wall and passing out; let them see you carrying your belongings on your shoulders in the dark; cover up your face, that you may not see the ground—for I have made you an omen for Israel." I did as I was told; I carried out my belongings in open daylight, like an outfit for exile; at night I broke through the town wall, bearing my belongings on my shoulder in the dark. I let them see me. Then in the morning this word from

the Eternal came to me: "Son of man, has that rebellious folk Israel never asked you what you were doing? Give them this message from the Lord the Eternal: 'This bearing of a burden applies to the prince and all the Israelites in Jerusalem.' Tell them: I am an omen for you; As with me, so with you—to exile, to captivity, you go. The prince among you, he shall go out in the dark, by the way he has broken, shouldering his burden, covering up his face, not to see the ground. I will fling my net over him, and he shall be caught in my toils; I will take him to Babylon in Chaldaea [[he will never see it, though he shall die there]], and his attendants, his retinue and all his guard, I will scatter to the winds, and pursue them with the sword. When I disperse them among the nations and scatter them over foreign lands, then shall they realize that I am the Eternal. A few of them I will save from the sword, from famine, and from pestilence, that they may confess all their detestable impieties among the nations of their exile. So shall they learn that I am the Eternal."

This word from the Eternal came to me: "Son of man, quake as you eat your bread, tremble anxiously as you drink your water, and tell your countrymen that the Lord the Eternal has this word for the citizens of Jerusalem in the land of Israel: 'They shall be anxious as they eat their bread and dismayed

- as they drink their water, for the land is to be stripped of all that it contains, owing to the violence done by all its inhabitants; the peopled towns shall be emptied and the land laid desolate. It will teach you that I am the Eternal.”
- 21 This word from the Eternal came to me: “Son of man, what is this proverb that you have in the land of Israel, ‘Time passes, but no vision comes to anything’? Tell them this from the Lord the Eternal: ‘I will put an end to this proverb, it shall never be repeated in Israel.’ Tell them, ‘The time is coming for the truth of every vision. No more vain visions and smooth oracles in Israel!’
- 25 For I the Eternal will speak a word, and my word shall be fulfilled; it shall not be delayed, for in your own day, O rebellious folk, I will both speak the word and fulfil it, says the Lord the Eternal.” This word from the Eternal also came to me: “Son of man, the Israelites are saying, ‘The vision he sees is for a long time ahead; he is predicting about a far-off age.’
- 28 Tell them this word from the Lord the Eternal: ‘None of my words shall be delayed, but what I say shall be done, says the Lord the Eternal.’”
- 13 This word from the Eternal came to me: “Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel, and give them this prophetic word from the Eternal.
- 3 The Lord the Eternal declares: Woe to the fools of prophets who only prophesy from what they feel, without a real vision!
- 4 O Israel, your prophets are like jackals burrowing among the ruins! You prophets never man the breach, you never build walls for the folk of Israel, to make a stand upon the day when the Eternal summons to the fray. Yours are false visions, lying oracles! You give ‘the word of the Eternal,’ and the Eternal never sent you! And you expect your words to be fulfilled! To cry ‘the word of the Eternal,’ when the Eternal has not spoken, is this not a vain vision, a lying oracle of yours? Therefore the Lord the Eternal proclaims: because your words are vain, your visions false, I am against you, says the Lord the Eternal; my hand shall be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying oracles. They shall have no place in the council of my people, they shall not be on the register of Israel, they shall not be allowed inside the land of Israel—it will teach you that I am the Eternal. Since they mislead my people by saying ‘All is well,’ when all is not well, since these daubers whitewash any flimsy wall run up to safeguard the people, tell such daubers that a deluge of rain is coming, huge hailstones shall come down, and a stormy blast shall break out, till down falls the flimsy wall; and then you will be asked, will you not, ‘What about your whitewash?’ The Lord the Eternal proclaims: I will let loose a stormy blast in my wrath, a deluge of rain in my anger, and hailstones in my fury, destroying the wall you daubed with your whitewash, demolishing it till its very foundations are laid bare; the wall shall fall, and crush you under it—to let you know that I am the Eternal. This will satisfy my wrath against the

- wall and those who daubed it with their whitewash. You will be asked, 'Where is the wall? Where are those who daubed it?'—these prophets of Israel who prophesy about Jerusalem with their visions of "All is well" for her, when all is not well!" The Lord the Eternal has spoken.
- 16 Son of man, face the women of your country who only prophesy from what they feel; give them this prophetic word from the Lord Eternal. 'Woe to the women who tie amulets on everybody's wrist and mantle folk of every height in veils, to get hold of human souls! You would get hold of human souls among my people, to make a profit from your trade? You are degrading me among my people for a handful of barley and some bread from your clients; you cheat my people, and they believe your cheats—your spells invoking death on honest folk and promising life to the dishonest! Therefore the Lord the Eternal declares: I am against these amulets you use to snare poor human souls; I will strip them off and let the souls go free whom you would fain control; I will tear off your veils and rescue my people from your sway—to let you know that I am the Eternal. Since your cheats and spells have dismayed honest folk whom I never dismayed, and encouraged the dishonest, till they would not give up their evil life and be saved, there shall be an end to your vain visions and incantations; I will rescue my people from your sway—to let you know that I am the Eternal.'
- 14 When some sheikhs of Israel came and sat down in front of me, this word from the Eternal came to me: "Son of man, these men have taken their idols to their very hearts, they are bent upon the sin that trips them up; am I to answer their inquiries? Give them this message from the Lord the Eternal: 'Any man of Israel who takes his idols to his very heart and is bent upon the sin that trips him up, and who consults a prophet, he shall get an answer from myself as heavy as all his idols; for I would ruin Israel with their heart's desire, since they have abandoned me for all their idols.' So give Israel this message from the Lord the Eternal: 'Turn away, turn away from your idols, turn your face from all your detestable impieties! For anyone belonging to Israel or any alien resident in Israel who abandons me, taking his idols to his very heart and bent upon the sin that trips him up, any such man who consults a prophet in order that the prophet may consult me on his behalf, shall get his answer from myself; I will set my face against that man, I will make an example of him, I will make him a byword and exterminate him from my people—to let you know that I am the Eternal.'
- When a prophet is beguiled into some prophetic utterance, it is I, the Eternal, who have beguiled him; I will strike at that prophet and destroy him out of my people Israel. They shall both suffer punishment; the punishment of the prophet shall be like the punishment of the man who consults him—so that Israel may no longer go astray from me, nor pollute themselves any longer with all

- their transgressions; they are to be my own people, and I am to be their God. The Lord the Eternal has said it."
- 12 This word from the Eternal
 13 came to me: "Son of man,
 when a land sins against me by
 unfaithfulness,
 and I strike a blow at it,
 when I send famine on it, to
 cut off man and beast,
 14 then, even were these three men
 within it, Noah, Daniel,
 and Eyob,
 they would save only them-
 selves by their goodness—
 the Lord the Eternal de-
 clares.
- 15 Were I to send wild beasts over
 the land, man-eaters,
 till the land lay waste and
 empty, after the beasts,
 16 then, even were these three men
 within it—
 by my life! declares the Lord
 the Eternal—
 they would not save their sons
 and daughters,
 they alone would be saved,
 and the land lie waste.
- 17 Were I to send a sword upon
 that land,
 saying, 'Sword, sweep through
 the land!'
 and were I to cut off man and
 beast,
 18 then, even were these three men
 within it—
 by my life! declares the Lord
 the Eternal—
 they would not save their sons
 and daughters,
 they alone would be saved.
- 19 Were I to send pestilence upon
 that land,
 venting my deadly rage upon
 it, cutting off man and
 beast,
 20 even were Noah, Daniel, and
 Eyob within it—
- by my life! declares the Lord
 the Eternal—
 they would not save their sons
 and daughters,
 they would save only them-
 selves by their goodness.
- And how much more, says the 21
 Lord the Eternal,
 when I send my four fatal
 judgments,
 sword, famine, evil beasts,
 and pestilence,
 to cut off man and beast from
 Jerusalem?
- Should any survive and escape, 22
 any sons and daughters,
 and make their way to you
 in Babylon,
 you will be consoled for the evil
 I have brought on Jerusa-
 lem,
 consoled for all I have in-
 flicted, when you see their
 life and ways;
- yes, it will console you to see 23
 their life and ways,
 you will see I had good cause
 for all I did,
 says the Lord the Eternal."
- This word from the Eternal 16
 came to me: "Son of man, what 2
 use is the wood of the vine, com-
 pared with wood from any tree
 in the forest? Is it used to make 3
 anything? Is even a peg cut
 from it, to hang a vessel on? 4
 Why, it is flung into the fire for
 fuel; the fire consumes its two
 ends, and the middle is burned
 up; is it fit then for anything? 5
 Even when it is whole, it is never
 used for anything; much less,
 when the fire has consumed it,
 and it is burned up. Well, then, 6
 says the Lord the Eternal, as
 the wood of the vine is flung

into the fire as fuel, so I hand over the citizens of Jerusalem;

- 7 I set my face against them. They have been taken out of the flames already, but fire shall consume them; they shall learn that I am the Eternal, when I
8 set my face against them and lay the land desolate for their unfaithfulness to me. The Lord the Eternal has said it.”
- 16 This word from the Eternal
2 also came to me: “Son of man, put the loathsomeness of Jerusalem before her, and proclaim
3 this word of the Lord the Eternal to Jerusalem: ‘Your origin and birth are from the land of Canaanites; your father was an Amorite, your mother a Hittite.
4 As for your birth, on the day you were born no one cut your navel-string, no one washed you clean with water, no one rubbed salt on you or swaddled you,
5 none looked with pity on you to do any such service to you; you were thrown out on the open field, a despised thing, on the day that you were born.
6 But as I passed and saw you weltering in your own blood, I said to you, as you lay thus weltering in your blood, “Live!”
7 I brought you up, till you throve like a plant, growing tall and strong; you came to womanhood, your breasts were formed, your hair grew long. But you
8 were bare and naked. Then, as I passed, I saw you were ripe for love; so I spread my robe over you, to cover your nakedness, and pledged myself to you in marriage, making a compact with you—says the Lord the Eternal. Thus did you become
9 my own. I bathed you in water, I washed all the blood off you,
10 and anointed you with oil; I decked you with embroidered

robes, I shod you with Egyptian leather, I swathed you in fine linen, I clothed you in silk; I 11 adorned you with finery, bracelets on your arms, a necklace round your throat, a ring on 12 your nose, ear-rings in your ears, and a lovely crown upon your head. You were adorned with 13 silver and gold, robed in fine linen and silk and embroidered robes; your food was fine flour, honey, and oil. You blossomed into a great beauty, and the 14 fame of your beauty went over the world; your beauty was perfect, through the splendour of my endowment—says the Lord the Eternal.

But, trusting to your beauty, 15 in the fame of it you played the harlot; you lavished your favours upon any passer-by. You 16 took your robes to make gay tents of love, where you played the harlot's trade. You took 17 the fine jewels of gold and silver that I had given to you, and made yourself human figures, with which you played the harlot; you covered these idols 18 with my embroidered robes, you offered them my oil and incense: the food I gave you, 19 my fine flour and oil and honey, that I fed you with, you burned for them as fragrant smoke—says the Lord the Eternal. The 20 sons and daughters that you bore me, these you took and burned to them in sacrifice. Was your harlotry not enough, 21 that you must murder my children and burn them alive for these idols of yours? And 22 amid all your loathsomeness and harlotry you never remembered your own early days, when you lay bare and naked, when you were weltering in your blood. And now, to crown your vice 23

(woe betide you! woe betide you! says the Lord the Eternal),
 24 you have raised a shrine for yourself, a resort in every street;
 25 you have raised your shrines at every street-corner, prostituting your beauty, offering your body to any passer-by, in
 26 many an act of harlotry. You have played the harlot with your neighbours, the sensual Egyptians; over and over again have you done it, to provoke
 27 my anger. [[So I struck at you, I cut down your rations and handed you over to the will of your foes, the Philistine towns, which were ashamed of your
 28 lascivious life.]] You have played the harlot with the Assyrians, so insatiable was your lust; and even then you were
 29 not satisfied. You repeated your harlotry over and again with Chaldæa, the traders' land; but even that left you unsatis-
 30 fied. What a passion consumes you, says the Lord the Eternal, to act like this!—to live like an
 31 abandoned harlot, raising your shrine at every street-corner, with a resort in every street. True, you were no harlot! You
 32 scorned to be paid for your favours! [[O adulterous wife, taking strangers instead of your
 33 husband!]] No, harlots receive presents, but you gave presents to all your lovers; you bribed them to come from all quarters
 34 to your embraces! You were the opposite of other harlots; no man had to solicit you, and no man had to pay you; this made you the opposite of other harlots!
 35 You harlot, listen to what the
 36 Eternal has to say. The Lord the Eternal declares: For the lavishing of your favours, for the unbaring of your body in your

harlot's play with your lovers, for all your detestable idols, and for the murder of your children whom you gave up to them, I will gather all the lovers 37 with whom you have lain, all you loved and all you did not love, I will gather them all round you and expose you to their gaze, baring your nakedness to them; I will punish you 38 as women are punished for unfaithfulness and for child-murder, I will let my fury and jealousy work on you their bloody doom; I will leave you to 39 your lovers, and they shall pull down your shrines and break down your resorts, stripping you of your clothes, robbing you of your fine jewels, and leaving you bare and naked; they shall collect a crowd, to 40 stone you and to cut you to pieces with their swords; they 41 shall let many a woman witness your punishment by burning your houses. So will I put a stop to your harlotry; no more bribes from you! It will appease 42 my fury, I will cease being jealous of you, I will be quiet, and angry no more. It is be- 43 cause you never remembered your early days, but roused me to rage with all your doings, that I will make you suffer for your conduct, says the Lord the Eternal. Oh that you had not been foully unfaithful!

Everyone who quotes prov- 44 erbs will quote this proverb against you, 'Like mother, like daughter!' You are the daugh- 45 ter of a mother who scorned her husband and her children. And you are the sister of women who scorned their husbands and their children. Your mother was a Hittite, your father was an Amorite. Your elder sister is 46

Samaria, with her daughters, to the north; your younger sister is Sodom, with her daughters, to the south. You did not live as they lived, you did not follow their detestable ways? No, that would not have been enough! You lived a life still more depraved than theirs. By my life! says the Lord Eternal, your sister Sodom and her daughters have not been so bad as you and your daughters. This was your sister Sodom's crime: she and her daughters lived in pride, in plenty, and in careless ease; she never lent a hand to the weak and wretched. Haughty they grew, and they committed detestable impieties before my face. So I swept them off, when I noticed it. Nor has Samaria committed half your sins. No, you have committed more detestable impieties than they have; yours serve to palliate your sisters' crimes, and that is some consolation to them; you must endure the shame of lessening your sisters' guilt by your far more abominable life; you make them out better than yourself—take the shame and the disgrace of that to yourself!

I will restore their fortunes, the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters and the fortunes of Samaria and her daughters, and your fortunes along with theirs—to make you feel the shame and the disgrace of having been some consolation to them. When Sodom and Samaria, your sisters, and their daughters, regain their former state, you and your daughters also shall regain your former state. Yet was not Sodom a byword in your mouth, during your days of pride, before your nakedness was exposed? And now you are, like

her, the scorn of the daughters of Edom and the malignant daughters of the Philistines around. You bear the penalty of your lasciviousness and your abominable life, says the Lord the Eternal. For this is the Lord the Eternal's decision: I will repay you for your conduct, for scorning the marriage-oath by breaking our compact. Yet I will remember my compact with you in the days of your youth; I will ratify a lasting compact with you; then you will remember how you have lived and be ashamed as you receive your sisters, the elder and the younger, when I give them to you as daughters. It shall not be through your compact with me; no, I will ratify my own compact with you, that you may learn that I am the Eternal, that you may remember and be ashamed and be silent under your disgrace, when I forgive you for all you have done. The Lord the Eternal has spoken."

This word from the Eternal came to me: "Son of man, propound a riddle, put a parable before Israel, and tell them this from the Lord the Eternal: 'A huge speckled eagle, with broad wings and long pinions in full plumage, flew to Lebânon and tore off the tip of a cedar; he plucked the young twig on the very top of the branch, and carried it to the land of traffic, setting it in a city of merchants. He also took some seed from the land of Judah and planted it in fertile soil . . . to sprout like a slip beside brimming streams and turn into a spreading vine of low size, whose branches might turn towards him, whose

roots might be under him—a vine bearing branches and putting out boughs. But there was another huge eagle, with broad wings and thick plumage; and the vine actually bent its roots towards him and stretched its branches towards him from the bed where it was planted! It would have him to water it, though it was planted beside brimming streams in a rich soil to bear its branches and yield fruit and prove a noble vine! Now ask them, from the Lord the Eternal: Can it prosper? Shall it not be torn up by the roots? Shall not its fruit be plucked, till all its sprouting leaves shall wither? Will it require much power or many a hand to uproot it? It is planted, but shall it prosper? Shall it not wither when the east wind strikes it, wither in the bed where it is growing?"

Then this word from the Eternal came to me: "Ask that rebellious folk, 'Do you not know what all this means?' Tell them, the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and took away her king and leaders, carrying them home to Babylon. He also took one of the royal family and made a compact with him; the nobles he removed, that the realm might be submissive and not ambitious, serving him in terms of his compact. But this prince rebelled against him, sending envoys to Egypt for horses and a large army. Shall he prosper? Can a man like that escape? Can he break a compact and escape? By my life! declares the Lord the Eternal, he shall die, die where the king lives to whom he owed his realm, whose oath he spurned, whose compact he broke, die

beside him in Babylon. The Pharaoh's great army and huge host can do nothing for him in the struggle, though mounds are thrown up and forts built to cut off many a life. The man spurned his oath by breaking his compact. He pledged his word, and yet he did all this! Escape he cannot! Therefore the Lord the Eternal decrees: By my life! I will punish him for my oath that he spurned and my compact that he broke: I will fling my net over him and catch him in my toils and carry him to Babylon, where I will deal with him for his treason to me; all the picked men in his ranks shall fall by the sword, and the survivors shall be scattered to the four winds—to teach you that I the Eternal have decreed this."

The Lord the Eternal declares: "I too will take a branch from the top of the high cedar; I will pluck from its topmost twigs a tender one and plant it on a high, conspicuous hill, on Israel's lofty mountain, where it shall put out boughs and bear fruit and grow into a noble cedar, with birds of every feather living under it, in the shadow of its branches. Then all the trees of the country shall learn that I the Eternal lower the high tree, raise the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I the Eternal have said it, and I will do it."

This word from the Eternal came to me: "What do you mean by quoting this proverb in the land of Israel, 'The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?' By my life! says the Lord the Eternal, you must never quote that

4 proverb again in Israel. All
 souls are mine, the soul of the
 father as well as the soul of the
 son; the soul that sins, that soul
 5 shall die. If anyone is a good
 man, doing what is right and
 6 honest, if he does not eat meat
 with the blood in it, if he does
 not adore the idols of Israel, if
 he does not seduce his neigh-
 7 bour's wife nor touch a men-
 struous woman, if he oppresses
 no one but returns what his deb-
 tor pledged, if he robs no one,
 if he feeds the hungry and
 8 clothes the naked, if he takes no
 interest on a loan, if he abstains
 from crime and decides fairly
 9 between man and man, if he
 lives by my laws, if he observes
 and obeys my rules, then he is
 good, he shall live, says the
 10 Lord the Eternal. If he has a
 son who is a brigand, given to
 11 bloodshed, who does none of
 these duties, but eats meat with
 the blood in it, seduces his neigh-
 12 bour's wife, oppresses the poor
 and needy, commits robbery,
 refuses to restore a pledge,
 13 adores idols, commits detestable
 impieties, and takes interest
 upon a loan—is he to live? He
 shall not live; he has done all
 these abominable things, and
 he must die; he is responsible for
 14 his own death. If he in turn has
 a son who, seeing all the sins
 done by his father, avoids them
 15 in fear, eats no meat with the
 blood in it, adores no idols of
 Israel, seduces no man's wife,
 16 oppresses no one, exacts no
 pledge, commits no robbery, but
 feeds the hungry, clothes the
 naked, abstains from crime,
 17 refuses to take interest on a loan,
 and carries out my orders, lives
 by my laws—he shall not die for
 18 the iniquity of his father, he
 shall live. His father died for

his own iniquity, because he
 practised oppression and out-
 rage and wrongdoing among his
 fellows. You ask, 'Why should 19
 the son not suffer for his father's
 iniquity?' If the son does what
 is right and honest, if he ob-
 serves and obeys all my orders,
 he shall live. The person who 20
 sins shall die. A son is not to
 suffer for his father's iniquity,
 nor a father for his son's iniqu-
 ity; the good man shall be
 credited with his own goodness,
 and the wicked man with his
 own wickedness.

But if a wicked man gives up 21
 all his sinful practices to follow
 all my orders and to do what is
 right and honest, he shall live—
 he shall not die. None of the 22
 transgressions he has committed
 shall be remembered against
 him; he shall live by the good-
 ness of his life. Have I any 23
 desire for the death of the
 wicked? says the Lord the
 Eternal. If he gives up his evil
 life, shall he not live? Again, 24
 when a good man gives up being
 good and practises iniquity,
 doing every abominable thing
 that a wicked man does, none
 of his good deeds shall be re-
 membered; for the treason he
 has committed and for the sin
 of which he is guilty he shall die.
 And yet you complain, 'The 25
 Lord is not acting fairly!' Lis-
 ten, O Israel; my methods not
 fair! Is it not rather your
 methods that are not fair and
 right? If a good man gives up 26
 being good to commit iniquity,
 he shall die, and die for the in-
 iquities he has done. If a wicked 27
 man gives up being wicked and
 does what is lawful and right, he
 shall save his life; as he fears 28
 and gives up all his transgres-
 sions, he shall live, he shall not

- 29 die. And yet Israel complains,
 "The Lord is not acting fairly!"
 My methods not fair, O Israel!
 Is it not rather your methods
 that are not fair and right?
- 30 O Israel, I will deal with every
 one of you as he has lived, says
 the Lord the Eternal. Repent
 and give up all your transgres-
 sions, or iniquity will be your
 31 ruin; have done with all your
 transgressions against me, and
 get a new nature, a new spirit,
 for yourselves. O Israel, why
 32 will you die? I have no desire
 for anyone to die, says the Lord
 the Eternal. So repent and
 live." * * *
- 19 Raise this dirge over the
 prince of Israel.
- 2 How like a lioness among lions
 was your mother!
 She crouched among young
 lions
 as she reared her whelps;
- 3 one whelp she brought up,
 a lion young;
 he learned to seize his prey,
 men he devoured;
- 4 the nations raised a hue and cry,
 they caught him in their pit,
 they dragged him off with hooks
 into the land of Egypt.
- 5 She saw he had been reft from
 her,
 her hope had vanished;
 she took and reared another
 whelp,
 a lion young,
- 6 who lived among the lions,
 and grew up a young lion;
 he learned to seize his prey,
 men he devoured,
- 7 ravaging their palaces,
 and wasting their towns,
- till all in the land were a-dread
 at his roar.
- Then the nations raised a hue 8
 and cry
 from the realms around,
 spread nets for him,
 and caught him in their pit,
 dragged him off with hooks 9
 to the king of Babylon,
 that his voice might sound no
 more
 on the uplands of Israel.
- Your mother was like a vine in a 10
 vineyard,
 planted beside streams,
 fruitful, rich in branches,
 thanks to the wealth of water;
- she had a great branch that 11
 grew
 into a royal sceptre,
 soaring to the clouds,
 seen afar amid a mass of
 boughs.
- But in wrath the vine was torn 12
 up,
 flung to the ground;
 the east wind withered up its
 fruit,
 and its great branch was
 broken off;
 now it is planted in a desert, 13
 in a waterless land.
 Fire spread from the branch, 14
 and burned the boughs,
 and now the vine has no great
 branch,
 no royal sceptre.
- This is a dirge, and current
 as a dirge. * * *
- In the seventh year, on the 20
 tenth day of the fifth month,
 some sheikhs of Israel came to
 consult the Eternal, and sat
 down in front of me. Then this 2

- word from the Eternal came to
 3 me: "Son of man, give the sheikhs of Israel this message from the Lord the Eternal. 'You come to consult me? By my life! says the Lord the Eternal, I will not be consulted by you.'
- 4 Arraign them, son of man, arraign them; let them hear the detestable impieties of their
 5 fathers, and tell them this from the Lord the Eternal: 'On the day when I chose Israel and swore to the descendants of the household of Jacob, revealing myself to them in the land of Egypt and swearing to them that I was the Eternal their
 6 God, on that day I swore to them that I would bring them from the land of Egypt to a land that I had assigned them, a land abounding in milk and
 7 honey, the glory of all lands. I said to them, "Let every man of you put aside the detestable impieties you love, be foul not yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am the Eternal your
 8 God." But they rebelled against me, they would not listen to me; they would not put aside the detestable impieties they loved, they would not abandon the idols of Egypt. So I resolved to vent my fury upon them and to execute my anger against them within the land of
 9 Egypt. Only, in dealing with them, I had regard to my own honour, lest it should be sullied in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, the nations who had seen me revealing myself to them by bringing them
 10 out of the land of Egypt. From the land of Egypt I brought them, I took them into the desert, I gave them my rules and showed them my regulations, obeying which a man
 shall live; I gave them my sabbath, 12 to mark the tie between me and them, to teach them that it is I, the Eternal, who sets them apart. But Israel rebelled against me in the desert; 13 they would not follow my rules, and they spurned my regulations, obeying which a man shall live, and they desecrated my sabbath deeply. So I resolved to vent my fury upon them in the desert and destroy them. Only, in dealing with 14 them, I had regard to my own honour, lest it should be sullied in the sight of the nations who had seen me bring them out. I did swear to them in the desert 15 that I would not bring them to the land I had assigned them, a land abounding in milk and honey, the glory of all lands, since they had spurned my regulations and refused to live by my rules, desecrating my sabbaths (their hearts set upon their idols); but I pitied them 17 and spared them, I did not destroy them in the desert. I 18 said to their children in the desert, "Live not by your fathers' rules, follow not their regulations, do not be foul yourselves with their idols: I am the Eternal your God, live by my rules, observe and obey my regulations, keep my sabbath 20 sacred and let it mark the tie between us—to teach you that I am the Eternal your God." In spite of this, the children 21 rebelled against me; they would not live by my rules, they would not observe and obey my regulations, obeying which a man shall live, and they desecrated my sabbath. So I resolved to vent my fury upon them, to execute my anger against them in the desert.

- 22 However, I withheld my hand, out of regard for my own honour, lest it should be sullied in the sight of the nations who had seen me bring them out.
- 23 But I swore to them in the desert that I would scatter them among the nations and disperse
- 24 them over foreign countries, because they had not carried out my orders but had spurned my laws and desecrated my sabbath, in their passion for the
- 25 idols of their fathers. I let them have laws that were evil and customs that could not
- 26 bring them to life, and I made their very sacrifices befoul them, as they burned their firstborn children alive—that I might destroy them. It was to teach them that I am the Eternal.’
- 27 Son of man, give Israel this message from the Lord the Eternal: ‘Your fathers further blasphemed me by this act of
- 28 treason. After I had brought them to the land I had sworn to assign them, whenever they saw a high hill or a leafy tree, there did they offer sacrifice, there did they exasperate me with their oblations, offering their fragrant smoke and pouring
- 29 their libations. I asked them, “What is the high place you hie to? and to this day it is
- 30 called ‘high place.’” So tell Israel this from the Lord Eternal: “You befoul yourselves like your fathers, you break your troth with me for their detest-
- 31 able impieties, and you befoul yourselves with all your sacrifices to idols—burning your sons alive—down to this very day! And I am to be consulted by you, O Israel? By my life! says the Lord the Eternal, no!
- 32 You must never dream of resembling the pagans, the natives, by worshipping things of wood and stone. By my life! the Lord the Eternal swears. I will be your king, with a strong hand, with arm outstretched, in overflowing fury; I will bring you from the nations, I will gather you out of the lands of your dispersion, with a strong hand, with arm outstretched, and in overflowing fury; I will take you into the great desert, and deal with you there face to face. As I dealt with your fathers in the Egyptian desert, so will I deal with you, says the Lord the Eternal; I will count you one by one and number you, purging out the rebels and the traitors—they shall be brought out of the land where they were living, but they shall never enter the land of Israel. It will teach you that I am the Eternal. As for the rest of you, O Israel, this is what the Lord the Eternal has to say: ‘Go and worship your idols, all of you! Later on you will listen to me and cease to sully my sacred honour with your sacrifices and idols! On my sacred hill, on the high mountain of Israel, the Lord the Eternal predicts, the whole community of Israel, every man of them, shall worship me; there I will accept them, there I will require your offerings and the very choicest of your sacred dues; I will accept you when I smell this fragrant smoke, after I have brought you from the nations and gathered you out of the lands where you were scattered. So the nations shall see what I am, as I deal with you, and you yourselves shall learn that I am the Eternal, after I have brought you to the land of Israel, the country I swore that

I would give to your fathers.
 43 There you shall remember how you lived and all you did, as you befouled yourselves, and you shall loathe yourselves for all the evil you committed. O 44 Israel, you shall learn that I am the Eternal, when I have dealt with you for the sake of my own honour, not as your evil life deserved, not as your corrupt practices deserved—says the Lord the Eternal.”
 45 This word from the Eternal came to me: “Son of man, turn 46 to the south, declaim against the south, prophesy against the 47 forest-land in the south, and tell the forest in the south this message from the Eternal. “The Lord the Eternal declares, I will kindle a fire within you, to burn up every green tree and every dry tree in you; there will be no quenching of the blaze, and every face from south 48 to north shall be scorched. The whole world shall see that I, the Eternal, kindled the fire; it 49 never shall be quenched.” “Ah, Lord Eternal!” I said, “they say about me, ‘Is he not a story-teller?’”
 21 Then this word from the 2 Eternal came to me: “Son of man, turn to Jerusalem, declaim against her sanctuaries, prophesy against the land of 3 Israel, and tell the land of Israel this message from the Eternal: ‘I am against you, I will unsheathe my sword and slay both good and bad within you; 4 and because I will slay both good and bad within you, my sword shall be unsheathed against all the world, from 5 south to north; the world shall know that I the Eternal have unsheathed my sword—not to

be sheathed again.’ Sigh then, 6 O son of man, sigh before them a heart-breaking, bitter sigh. And when they ask you why 7 you are sighing, answer, ‘For bad news! Evil is coming; every heart shall tremble, every hand shall be limp, every spirit shall faint, and all knees shall be weak as water. Evil is coming—the Lord the Eternal has declared it.’”

This word from the Eternal 8 came to me: “Son of man, utter 9 this prophetic word from the Eternal. Say:

A sword, a sword,
 whetted and polished,
 whetted to slay, 10
 polished to flash like lightning ...
 handed to slayers 11
 to wield,
 whetted and polished
 for slayers to handle!
 Shriek, son of man, and howl; 12
 it is drawn against my people,
 against all Israel’s leaders—
 they and my people
 surrendered to the sword!
 Smite your breast despairingly,
 for I spurn them in my wrath, 13
 says the Lord the Eternal.

Prophecy, then, son of man, 14
 call the doom down,
 swing the sword twice, thrice,
 the sword of mortal wounds,
 the huge sword of mortal 15
 wounds,
 that hems them in.

Scare them till their hearts are 15
 trembling,
 and dead lie heaped at every
 gate.
 They are abandoned to the
 slaughtering sword,
 flashing like lightning,
 whetted for slaughter.
 Whirl to the rear, sword, 16

right, front, left—
 wherever your edge must whirl;
 17 and I will clap you on,
 I will glut my fury—
 I, the Eternal, have said it!"

18 This word from the Eternal
 19 came to me: "Son of man, trace
 two roads for the sword of the
 king of Babylon to take, both
 20 from the same land; draw a
 hand to mark out the path of
 the sword to each city, to Rab-
 bah of the Ammonites and to
 21 Jerusalem inside Judah. For
 the king of Babylon is standing
 at the cross-roads, where the
 two paths fork, to practise divi-
 nation; he is shaking the two
 arrows, consulting the oracle,
 and inspecting a beast's liver.

22 To his right hand comes the lot
 against Jerusalem, for cries of
 havoc, for battle-shouts, for bat-
 tering-rams against the gates,
 for raising ramparts, for erecting
 23 forts. Jerusalem thinks it is a
 lot in vain; but it recalls to me
 their guilt, and for their guilt
 24 they shall be captured. Here,
 then, is the Lord the Eternal's
 word: 'Since you recall to me
 your guilt, by your open trans-
 gressions and all the deeds that
 bring your sins to light, since
 you remind me of yourselves,
 25 you shall be captured.' And
 you, you knave, O prince of
 Israel to be slain, for whom the
 hour of sin's full punishment
 26 brings doom—"Off with his dia-
 dem, away with his crown!"
 says the Lord the Eternal; 'turn
 things upside down, up with the
 27 low, down with the high! I lay
 all in ruins, ruins, ruins; every-
 thing shall be overturned, till
 the rightful man arrives—and I
 will give him everything.'

28 Son of man, deliver this pro-
 phetic word also from the Lord

the Eternal about the Ammon-
 ites and their deriding. Say, 'A
 sword, a sword is drawn for
 slaughter, polished to flash
 lightning! In false visions, by
 a lying oracle, you were told
 that you would wield it on the
 necks of the wicked, the doomed,
 whose end comes in the hour of
 sin's full punishment. Back 29
 with it into the scabbard! I
 will punish you yourself in the
 land of your origin, the land of
 your birth: I will vent my anger 31
 upon you, blow the flames of my
 wrath on you, and hand you over
 to savage agents of destruction.
 You shall be fuel to the fire, 32
 your blood shall fill the land,
 and you shall be forgotten—for
 I the Eternal have decreed it.' "

This word from the Eternal 22
 came to me: "Son of man, ar- 2
 rain, arraign the bloody city;
 then let her hear all her de-
 testable impieties, and tell her 3
 this from the Lord the Eternal:
 'O city, shedding blood to draw
 your doom upon you, making
 idols for yourself that you may
 be befouled! You are guilty of 4
 the blood you shed, befouled by
 the idols you have made; you
 have brought on your own hour
 of doom, your day of reckoning.
 So I leave you to the scorn of
 the nations and the mockery of
 all the world. Far and near 5
 they shall mock you, you in-
 famous thing, seething with dis-
 order! The leaders of Israel 6
 within you have been overbear-
 ing, bent on bloodshed; within 7
 you fathers and mothers are de-
 spised, foreigners are oppressed,
 orphans and widows wronged.
 You scorn what is sacred to 8
 me, you desecrate my sabbath.
 You harbour men who murder 9
 their fellows by false evidence.

10 Within you flesh is eaten with the blood in it. Within you men live lasciviously; they take their father's concubines, they lie
 11 with menstuous women; one does the act of shame with his neighbour's wife, another lewdly couples with his daughter-in-law, another weds his sister, the
 12 daughter of his father. Within you bribes are taken to shed blood. You take interest on loans, you oppress your neighbour by extortion—and you forget me, says the Lord the
 13 Eternal. I shake my hand in horror at your extortion and
 14 your bloodshed. Will you keep a stout heart, will you be undaunted, when I come to deal with you? I the Eternal have
 15 said it, and I will do it; I will scatter you among the nations and disperse you over foreign lands, consuming the impurity
 16 out of you; you shall be put to shame before all the nations—to teach you that I am the Eternal.'"
 17 This word from the Eternal
 18 came to me. "Son of man, the community of Israel is all dross to me, brass, tin, iron, lead, for the furnace—mere silver-dross.
 19 So—the Lord Eternal declares—since you are all mere dross, I will collect you in Jerusalem;
 20 as men collect silver, brass, iron, lead, and tin, to blow the flames upon them and melt them in the furnace, so will I collect you in my anger and my fury,
 21 fling you in, and melt you; yes, I will collect you and blow the flames of my wrath upon you, till you are melted in Jerusalem. As silver is melted inside a furnace, so shall you be melted within it; and you shall learn that I the Eternal have vented my fury upon you."

This word from the Eternal 23
 came to me: "Son of man, say 24
 to her, 'On the day of my indignant wrath, you are a land bereft of rain and shower, where 25
 the local leaders are roaring lions that tear their prey, their prey of human lives, seizing on treasures and valuables, and making many a widow; where 26
 the priests violate my law and profane what is sacred to me, making no difference between the sacred and the secular, never teaching any distinction between the consecrated and the unconsecrated, paying no heed to my sabbath—till I am profaned among them; where 27
 the authorities are like wolves tearing their prey, shedding blood and murdering men to win dishonest gain; where the 28
 prophets daub for them with whitewash, with vain visions and false oracles, saying, "The word of the Eternal," when the Eternal has not spoken; where 29
 the natives practise oppression and commit robbery, wronging the weak and wretched, and inflicting injustice upon foreigners. I have looked for a man 30
 among them to build up the wall and man the breach on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I could not find a man. So I vent my indignation on them, I burn them up with my wrath, I make them suffer for their conduct—the Lord the Eternal declares.'"
 31

This word from the Eternal 23
 came to me: "Son of man, 2
 there were two women, daughters of one mother; when they 3
 were young, they played the harlot in Egypt, where men pressed their breasts and handed their virgin nipples. Their 4

names were Ohôlah, the elder, and Ohôlibah, the younger. They became my wives, and bore sons and daughters [as for their names, Ohôlah is Samaria, Ohôlibah Jerusalem]]. But Ohôlah played the harlot, though she was my wife; she doted on her lovers the Assyrians, soldiers clad in purple, prefects and governors, handsome young fellows all of them, riding on horseback; she bestowed her favours upon them, the pick of Assyria, all of them, and befouled herself with the idols of every man on whom she doted; she never gave up her harlotry since in Egypt men lay with her as a girl and handled her virgin nipples and had intercourse with her freely. So I handed her over to her lovers, to the Assyrians on whom she had doted; they exposed her nakedness, they seized her sons and daughters, and they slew her with the sword; so punishment was inflicted on her, till she became a warning to women. Her sister Ohôlibah saw this, but she went further in depravity, in her lust and harlotry. She doted on the Assyrians, prefects and governors, soldiers clad in purple, riding on horseback, handsome young fellows all of them. I saw that she was befouling herself; both sisters were going the same road. But she carried her harlotry further; she saw men pictured upon walls, figures of Chaldeans drawn in vermilion, with sashes round their waists, with turbans adorning their heads, fine fellows to look at, portraits of Babylonians whose native land was Chaldea; and when she saw them she doted upon them. So she sent messengers to them in Chaldea,

and the Babylonians came to embrace her with lust, befouling her with their intercourse, till she grew sated and broke with them in disgust. And I broke with her in disgust, as I had broken with her sister, for flaunting her harlotry and uncovering her naked body. But she carried her harlotry still further, remembering her early days of harlotry in Egypt: she doted upon paramours who were like asses and stallions in the grossness of their lust. Yes, you sought to repeat the lustful days of your youth, when the Egyptians handled your nipples and pressed your young breasts. Therefore, Ohôlibah—here is the Lord the Eternal's sentence—I will rouse your lovers against you, the lovers you broke with; I will mass them all round you, the Babylonians, all the Chaldeans from Pukûdu, Sutu, and Kutu, and with them all the Assyrians, handsome young fellows all of them, prefects and governors, captains and councillors, all riding on horseback; they shall attack you with many chariots and cars, and with a host of nations, they shall invest you with shields, targes, and helmets: I will entrust judgment to them, and they shall sentence you; I will vent my jealous fury upon you, and let them deal with you fiercely, cutting off your nose and ears; your survivors shall fall by the sword, your sons and daughters shall be carried off, and your survivors burned to death. They shall strip you of your clothes and take away your fine jewels. So will I put an end to your lasciviousness and Egyptian harlotry; you shall never take to that again.

28 nor remember Egypt. For this is the Lord the Eternal's sentence: I hand you over to men you hate, to men you broke
 29 with, and they shall vent their hate on you, seizing the wealth you worked for, leaving you bare and naked, and exposing all your shameful debauchery.
 30 Your lasciviousness and harlotry have brought it on you, for playing the harlot with the nations by befouling yourself
 31 with their idols. You have gone the road of your sister, and I will make you drain the cup
 32 she had to drain. For this is the Lord the Eternal's sentence:

You shall drink your sister's cup,
 deep and large and full!
 drink deep of ruin and of grief,
 33 a cup of despair and desolation.
 You must drain it to the dregs, your sister's cup, Samaria's,
 34 drink it up and drain it, and tear your breasts—
 I have decreed it,
 says the Lord the Eternal.
 35 Since you forgot me and flung me aside,
 then suffer for your sensual harlot ways!"

36 "Son of man," said the Eternal, "arraign Ohölah and Ohölibah, and show them their detestable impieties. They have
 37 been guilty of adultery, and there is blood upon their hands; they have been guilty of adultery with their idols, and they abandoned the very sons they
 bore to me, to be burned up
 38 for their idols. They did this to me also; they polluted my sanctuary and desecrated my
 39 sabbath, for the very day they sacrificed their sons to their

idols they polluted my sanctuary by entering it. And this is how they behaved within my temple; they actually sent for 40 men who came from far away, sent messengers to them! And for them you bathed yourself, you painted your eyes, you put on your ornaments, you sat on 41 a handsome diwan, with a table spread in front of it, you spread out my incense and my oil, and 42 sounds of revelry arose! Yes, and they sent for common men, mere drunkards from the desert, and even for them put bracelets on their arms and splendid crowns upon their heads . . . And the men embraced them 44 like harlots; thus did they embrace Ohölah and Ohölibah in their lust. But honest men 45 shall inflict on them the punishment of the adulteress and the murderess, for adulteresses they are and blood is on their hands. This therefore is the 46 Lord the Eternal's sentence: Bring a host of folk against them, and hand them over to be maltreated and robbed! Let 47 them be stoned and put to the sword, let their sons and daughters be slain, and let their houses be burned up! So will I put an 48 end to sensuality in the country, that all women may take warning and avoid your sensual ways; I will requite you for 49 your sensual ways; you will have to bear the consequences of your sinful idolatry, and so learn that I am the Lord the Eternal."

In the ninth year, on the 24 tenth day of the tenth month, this word from the Eternal came to me: "Son of man, write down 2 the name of this day; on this very day the king of Babylon

has begun to invest Jerusalem.

- 3 Tell this rebellious community a parable; give them this message from the Lord the Eternal:

'Put the cauldron on the fire,
put it on,

pour in the water,

- 4 put in the pieces,
all the good pieces,
the thighs and the shoulders,
fill it with the choicest bones,

- 5 choose the finest of the flock;
then pile wood under it,
make it boil merrily,
seething the bones in it!

- 6a For this is the Lord the Eternal's word: 'Woe to the bloody

9 city! I myself will pile the fuel

- 10 high. Heap on the wood, kindle the fire, but empty out the

- 11 flesh, pour out the broth, and then set the cauldron empty on the coals to heat, to let its copper glow, and melt out its impurity, consume its rust. But the thick rust will not leave it; not even the fire can purge it.

- 6b Woe to the cauldron full of rust, with rust that will not leave it. Empty it anyhow, pull out

7 the pieces as they come! [[For the blood of her murders is in her; she poured it out on the bare rock, not on the ground

8 for the dust to hide it, but to rouse my fury, to provoke ven-

- 13 geance upon herself.]] The rust is your impurity so foul. Because I would have cleansed you and you would not be clean, you shall never be cleansed from your impurity till I glut my

- 14 fury on you. I the Eternal have said it, and I will do it; I will not refrain, I will not pity, I will not relent, I will punish you as you have lived and acted"—so says the Lord the Eternal."

This word from the Eternal 15 came to me: "Son of man, I am 16

taking from you at a stroke the treasure of your eyes. But no 17

mourning for her, not a tear! Sigh silently, raise no lament 18

for the dead; put on your turban and your sandals, cover not 19

up your beard, and eat no funeral food." I told this to 20

the people in the morning, and in the evening my wife died.

Next day I did as I had been told. The people asked me, 21

"Will you not tell us what this means for us—this conduct of 22

yours?" I answered, "This word from the Eternal came to 23

me: Tell the community of Israel this message from the Lord 24

the Eternal—I am about to desecrate my own sanctuary, 25

your pride and confidence, the treasure of your eyes, your darling 26

care; and the sons and daughters you have left behind 27

are to fall by the sword. [[You shall do as I have done; you shall not cover up your beards, 28

nor eat funeral food; you shall wear your turbans and your 29

sandals, you shall neither lament nor weep but pine away 30

in your sins and groan to yourselves.]] This is how Ezekiel 31

shall be an example to you; as he does, so shall you do when 32

the time comes. It will teach you that I am the Lord the 33

Eternal.' And, son of man, on the day I take from them their 34

confidence, their proud delight, the treasure of their eyes, their 35

heart's desire, together with their sons and daughters, a fugi- 36

tive will come to you with the news. Then you can open your 37

lips to the fugitive, you can speak aloud, you need not be 38

any longer dumb. So shall you be an example to them, and 39

they shall learn that I am the Eternal."

* * *

- 25 This word from the Eternal
 2 came to me: "Son of man, turn to the Ammonites and prophesy
 3 against them; tell the Ammonites to listen to this message from the Lord the Eternal. 'The Lord the Eternal declares: Since you gloated over my sanctuary being desecrated, and over the land of Israel being laid waste, and over the community of Judah being carried into exile,
 4 therefore will I hand you over to the Bedawin for their own; they shall pitch their tents and make their encampments all over you, eating your crops and
 5 drinking your milk; I will let camels pasture in Rabbah and flocks graze in the towns of the Ammonites—to teach you that
 6 I am the Eternal.' The Lord the Eternal declares: 'Since you clapped your hands and jumped for joy in your malicious delight
 7 over the land of Israel, therefore will I strike you and hand you over to be ravaged by the nations; I will cut you off from the races of men and blot your land out of the earth, destroying you—to teach you that I am the Eternal.'
 8 The Lord the Eternal declares: 'Since Moab says, "Judah is now no better than any other
 9 nation," therefore will I lay open the flank of Moab, from the towns on its frontier to Beth-jeshimoth, Baal-meon, and Kureyat, the glory of the land;
 10 I will give Moab as well as the Ammonites to the Bedawin, as their own, that Ammon may be no more remembered as a nation, and on Moab will I inflict
 11 punishment—to teach them that I am the Eternal.'

The Lord the Eternal declares: 'Since Edom has acted revengefully to Judah and has been guilty of bitter revenge, therefore, the Lord the Eternal declares, I will strike Edom, cutting off man and beast from it, and laying it waste; from Teman to Dedan the Edomites shall fall by the sword. I will employ my people Israel to carry out my vengeance upon Edom, and they shall act upon my anger and fury to Edom—to let the Edomites feel my vengeance. The Lord the Eternal has said it.'

The Lord the Eternal declares: 'Since the Philistines have acted revengefully, and sought in spiteful vengeance to destroy Israel with a lasting hatred, therefore, the Lord the Eternal declares, I will strike the Philistines, cutting off the Kerethites, and destroying the rest of them along the seacoast; I will take heavy vengeance on them, and when I carry out my vengeance they shall learn that I am the Eternal.'

In the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, this word from the Eternal came to me: "Son of man, since Tyre has gloated over Jerusalem,

'Aha! this door into the nations is broken down!
 It lies open to me; I shall prosper, now she is laid waste,'

therefore the Lord the Eternal utters this sentence:

"Tyre, I am against you, and against you
 I will bring many a nation, as the sea brings many a wave,

- 4 till they destroy the walls of
Tyre and level her high
towers;
I will scrape the very dust from
her and leave her a bare
rock,
5 a place for spreading nets on, in
the middle of the sea—
I have said it, the Lord the
Eternal declares—
6 and her townships on the main-
land shall fall by the sword,
to let them know that I am the
Eternal.'
- 7 For this is the Lord the Eter-
nal's sentence: 'I bring down
upon Tyre Nebuchadrezzar
king of Babylon, the king of
kings, with horses and chariots
and cavalry and a host of many
races from the north.
- 8 Your townships on the main-
land
he puts to the sword;
against you he raises forts,
against you he throws up
mounds,
against you he masses shields,
9 drives the battering-ram
against your walls,
breaks your towers down
with his axes.
- 10 So many are his horses
that their dust covers you;
your walls shake
at the din of his cavalry,
his chariots and cars,
as he enters your gates
like a conqueror entering
a tower that is breached;
11 all your streets he tramples
with his horses' hoofs,
your folk he slays with the
sword,
your proud pillars crash to the
ground;
12 your wealth is plundered,
your merchandise looted,
your walls are shattered,
- your fine halls are ruined,
your stones and timber and
your very dust
are sunk in the sea.
I will silence the music of your 13
songs,
no lyre shall be heard any
longer;
I will make you a bare rock, 14
a place for spreading nets on,
and never to be built again—
for I the Eternal have said it.'
Such is the sentence of the
Lord the Eternal.
- This is the Lord the Eter- 15
nal's word for Tyre: 'At the
sound of your fall, when the
wounded groan during the mas-
sacre, shall not the coast-lands
tremble? The princes of the 16
seaboard will come down from
their thrones and lay aside
their robes and strip off their
embroidered dress; trembling
all over they will sit on the
earth, quivering every moment
and shuddering over you. They 17
will raise this dirge for you,
crying:
- How you have vanished from
the seas,
O city of renown!
Once so strong upon the seas,
you and your folk,
once a terror
to the haunters of the sea!
Now at your passing the sea- 18
lands
are scared.'
- For the Lord the Eternal de- 19
clares: 'When I make you a
desolate city, like cities unin-
habited, when I turn the ocean
upon you and the deep waters
cover you, then I will thrust 20
you down with those who de-
scend to the world below, to
the ancient dead; I will make

you dwell in the nether regions, in primeval wastes, never to be inhabited, never to take your place again in the land of the living; I will utterly destroy you, and you shall exist no longer; you may be sought for, but never shall you be found—the Lord the Eternal has said it.’ ”

27 This word from the Eternal
2 came to me: “Son of man,
3 raise a dirge also for Tyre, and
say to Tyre that sits at the door
of the sea, trading with many a
coast-land for the nations—‘The
Lord the Eternal declares:

O Tyre, you thought
your beauty perfect;

4 your moorings were deep,
your builders had made you a
perfect beauty,

5 with cypress trees from Senir
for your planks,
with cedars from Lebânon
for your masts,

6 with oaks from Bashan
for your oars,
with ivory inlaid in larch
from Cyprus for your deck;

7 fine linen with Egyptian em-
broidery
made your canvas,
serving as your pennon;
purple and blue from the coasts
of Elishah

furnished your awnings;
8 men from Sidon and Arvad
were your rowers,
your own experts, O Tyre,
were your pilots,

9 the sheikhs and councillors of
Geba

were your caulkers.

All ships and their sailors were
in your harbour
to handle your trade;

10 Persia, Lud, and Put served in
your army
as your soldiers,

they hung their shields and hel-
mets within you,
and lent you splendour.

The men of Arvad and of 11
Cilicia manned your walls, the
men of Gammad were in your
towers, hanging their shields all
round your walls and making
your beauty perfect. Tartessus 12
brought you merchandise for
your great wealth of every kind,
fetching you wares of silver,
iron, tin, and lead. Ionians, 13
Tubal, and Meshek brought you
merchandise, supplies of slaves
and copper ware. Armenians 14
fetched you wares of horses and
mules. Men from Rhodes 15
brought you merchandise, and
many a seaport at your service
brought you traffic, with ivory
tusks and ebony as their tribute.
Edom brought you merchandise 16
for your rich wealth, fetching
you wares of garnets, coral, and
agates, of purple dyes, em-
broidery, and fine linen. Judah 17
and the land of Israel brought
you merchandise, fetching you
wares of wheat from Minnith,
wax, honey, oil, and balsam.
Damascus brought you mer- 18
chandise for your rich wealth,
supplies of wine from Chalbûn,
and white wool. From Uzal you 19
received wrought iron, cassia,
and sweet cane; Dedan brought 20
you wares of saddle-cloths for
riding; Arabia and all the chiefs 21
of Kedar were at your service,
bringing you merchandise of
lambs and rams and goats;
Shēba and Raamah brought you 22
merchandise, supplying you
with the pick of all spices, with
jewels and with gold. Harraṇ 23
and Kalneh and Eden, Assyria
and all the Medes, brought you
merchandise, supplying you 24
with choice fabrics, mantles

blue and embroidered, stuffs of
all colours, and strong, twisted
25 cords. Ships of Tartessus car-
ried your trade.

So, richly laden you laboured
in deep water;
26 your rowers took you out
into the high seas,
and an east wind wrecked you
in the deep.
27 Your wealth and wares, your
merchandise,
your sailors and your pilots,
your caulkers and your dockers,
and every soldier in you,
with all the crowd in you,
they sank into the sea
when you were wrecked.

28 At the shriek of your pilots
the coast is a-quiver;
29 and oarsmen, all of them,
sailors and pilots,
come out of their ships
to stand on the beach,
30 wailing over you,
crying out bitterly,
flinging dust on their heads,
sprinkling ashes upon them,
31 shaving their heads to bemoan
you,
girding themselves with sack-
cloth,
and weeping for you bitterly
with bitter wailing.

32 They raise a dirge for you, a
wail,
lamenting over you:
Who was glorious as Tyre was
in the deep?

33 When your wares were landed,
you filled many a nation;
with your abundant wealth and
wares
you enriched kings of the world.
34 And now you are wrecked
in deep water;
your wares and all your crew
have sunk!

All seafaring folk are appalled 35
at the sight of you;
their kings are aghast,
their faces convulsed;
merchants abroad are shocked. 36
Your fate is awful;
there is no future for you! "

This word from the Eternal 28
came to me: "Son of man, give 2
the prince of Tyre this message
from the Lord the Eternal:

"Since you are proud of heart,
thinking that you are a god,
in a god's seat, by the deep,
when you are no god but a man,
though you deem yourself a
god—
aye, wiser than a Daniel, 3
no sage like you!—
your wisdom and your shrewd- 4
ness
winning you wealth,
pouring gold and silver
into your treasury;
since by your great wisdom and 5
your trade
you have enriched yourself,
and wealth has made you proud
of heart,
then here is the Lord Eternal's 6
sentence:
since you think yourself a god,
I will set foreigners on you, 7
most ruthless of races,
to draw their swords against
your beautiful wisdom,
to stain your splendour,
to thrust you down into the 8
underworld.
A violent death shall you die,
there by the deep.

Will you still say, before your 9
murderer,
"I am a god?"
To your murderer
you are no god but a man!
At the hand of foreigners 10
you shall die a cruel death;

for I have said it—so runs the Lord the Eternal's sentence.' "

- 11 This word from the Eternal
 12 also came to me: "Son of man, raise a dirge over the king of Tyre, and give him this message from the Lord the Eternal—'You were the father of wisdom, the perfection of beauty;
 13 you lived in Eden, the garden of God; you were adorned with every jewel, the jasper, the chrysolite, the sardonyx, the topaz, the beryl, the onyx, the sapphire, the garnet, and the rock-crystal, their setting
 14 wrought in gold. . . . On the day you were created I placed you beside the kherubs on the sacred hill of God; you walked amid the flashing thunderstones. From the day you were
 15 created, you lived a perfect life, till you were discovered doing
 16 wrong; rich traffic made you rife with violence, and you sinned. Hence I have expelled you as a profane thing from the hill of God, and the kherub has driven you to your ruin away from the flashing thunderstones.
 17 Your beauty made you proud of heart, your brilliance depraved your wisdom; so I have cast you down, abandoning you for kings to feast their eyes on you.
 18 By the greatness of your guilt, by the crimes of your commerce, you have profaned your sacred position; therefore have I made you set fire to yourself, with flames that consume you, and reduced you to ashes on earth in the sight of all who behold
 19 you. All who know you among the nations shall be appalled at you—your fate is awful, there is no future for you.' "
- 20 'This word from the Eternal
 21 also came to me: "Son of man,

turn towards Sidon and tell her this prophetic word from the Lord the Eternal.

'O Sidon, I am against you, I will show what I am in dealing with you!'

When I inflict punishment on her and show what I am by my dealing with her, it will teach her that I am the Eternal.

'For I will send pestilence into her, bloodshed into her streets, till the wounded fall thick within her by the sword that strikes her on every side'—

to teach them that I am the Lord the Eternal.

Of all the malignants who surround Israel, none shall fret them like a briar or pierce them like a thorn any longer; they shall learn that I am the Lord the Eternal. The Lord the Eternal proclaims: When I have gathered the community of Israel from the races where they have been scattered, when I show the nations who I am by my dealings with Israel, then shall they live in their own land, the land I assigned to my servant Jacob; they shall live in it securely, building houses and planting vineyards; securely shall they live, when I have inflicted punishment on all the malignants who surround them—to teach them that I am the Eternal their God."

In the tenth year, on the twelfth day of the tenth month, this word from the Eternal came to me: "Son of man, turn 2

to the Pharaoh king of Egypt,
and prophesy against him and
3 all Egypt; proclaim this mes-
sage from the Lord the Eternal:

'I am against you, Pharaoh king
of Egypt,
you mighty monster lying in
your streams,
- thinking the Nile is your own,
your own making!

4 I will drive hooks into your
jaws,
and make the fishes of the Nile
stick to your scales,
and I will haul you up out of
your Nile,
with your fishes sticking to
your scales,

5 and fling you out into the desert,
you and all the fishes of your
Nile,

dropping you on the fields,
never to be gathered up or
buried;

to the wild beasts and birds
I leave you for food.

6 So shall all dwellers in Egypt
learn

that I am the Eternal.

Since you have been a poor
staff of reeds to Israel,

7 breaking when they seized you,
tearing all their hand,
breaking when they leant on
you,

shaking them to pieces—

8 therefore the Lord the Eternal
proclaims, I will bring a sword
upon you, destroying man and

9 beast within you, till the land
of Egypt lies desolate and waste.
It is to teach Egypt that I am
the Eternal, since he thought
the Nile was his own, his own

10 making. Therefore am I against
you and your Nile; I will turn
the land of Egypt into an utter
waste of desolation, from Mig-
dol to Syenê, to the very frontier

11 of Ethiopia; no foot of man shall

pass over it, no foot of beast
shall pass over it; for forty years
it shall not be inhabited; I will 12
make the land of Egypt one of
the desolate lands, and her cit-
ies, among desolate cities, shall
lie waste for forty years; I will
scatter the Egyptians among
the nations and disperse them
over foreign countries. Then, 13
after forty years—says the Lord
the Eternal—I will gather the
Egyptians from the nations
where they have been scattered,
and restore the fortunes of 14
Egypt; I will bring them back
to the land of Pathros, the land
of their birth. There they shall
form a weak kingdom, the weak- 15
est of all kingdoms, a kingdom
that never again shall rise to
rule the nations; I will diminish
them, till they cannot hold sway
again over the nations. No 16
more shall Israel rely on Egypt,
turning to them and thus re-
minding me of their crime. It
will teach them that I am the
Lord the Eternal.' "

In the twenty-seventh year, 17
on the first day of the first
month, this word from the Eter-
nal came to me: "Son of man, 18
Nebuchadrezzar king of Baby-
lon forced his army to make a
great effort against Tyre, till
every soldier's head was rubbed
bald and every shoulder galled
by this great effort against Tyre.
Therefore the Lord the Eternal 19
declares, I will let Nebuchad-
rezzar king of Babylon have
the land of Egypt; he shall
carry off its teeming people, he
shall plunder it, and take it as
his prey, to pay his army; I 20
assign him the land of Egypt in
payment for the service that he
rendered me, says the Lord the
Eternal."

[[In those days I will make 21

the community of Israel thrive and flourish, and I will open your lips among them; so shall they learn that I am the Eternal.]]

- 30 This word from the Eternal
2 came to me: "Son of man, utter this prophetic word from the Lord the Eternal:

'Wail aloud, woe for the day!

- 3 For the day draws nigh,
the Eternal's day draws nigh,
a cloudy day,
a day of doom for the nations.

- 4 A sword shall fall on Egypt,
and Ethiopia shall be in anguish
as the slain drop in Egypt,
as her teeming folk are borne
away,
as her foundations are demolished.'

- 5 [[Ethiopia and Put and Lud, all the Arabians and Libyans and Kerethites along with them, shall fall by the sword.]]

- 6 The Eternal proclaims:
'Egypt's supporters shall fall,
her proud power shall give
way;
from Migdol to Syenê they shall
fall by the sword—
the Lord the Eternal decrees it;
7 they shall be one of the desolate
lands,
their cities shall belong to cities
lying waste.

- 8 So shall they learn that I am
the Eternal,
when I have set fire to Egypt,
and shattered all her helpers.
9 On that day I send out mes-
sengers in ships
to terrify Ethiopia so secure;
Ethiopia shall be seized with
anguish
on the day of Egypt's doom—
for it is coming.'

The Lord the Eternal declares: 10
'I will destroy the nation of
Egypt

by Nebuchadrezzar king of
Babylon;

he and his people, most ruthless 11
of races,

shall be brought in to destroy
the land,

drawing their swords against
Egypt,

and filling the land with the
slain;

I will dry up the Nile, 12

and sell the land to evil men,
employing foreigners

to devastate the land and all
it holds.

I the Eternal have said it.'

The Lord the Eternal declares: 13
'I will abolish the magnates of
Memphis,

and leave no prince in Egypt.

I will put fear on the land of
Egypt;

I will lay Pathros waste, 14

set fire to Zoan, punish Thebes,
vent my fury on Pelusium, 15

Egypt's stronghold,
and cut off the people of Thebes;

I will set fire to Egypt, 16

Pelusium shall writhe with
pangs.

Thebes shall be stormed,

and Memphis battered down.

the braves of On and Bubastis 17
shall fall by the sword,

and the citizens pass into exile.

At Daphne too 'twill be a dark 18
day

when there I shatter Egypt's
sway,

and her proud power vanishes;

clouds shall cover her,

and her subjects pass into exile.

Thus will I punish Egypt; 19

and they shall learn that I am
the Eternal."

In the eleventh year, on the 20

- seventh day of the first month, this word from the Eternal came
- 21 to me: "Son of man, I break the arm of the Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and there is no binding of it up, no poulticing, no bandaging, to make it strong enough to grasp the sword
- 22 again. The Lord the Eternal proclaims: I am against the Pharaoh king of Egypt, I will break both his arms, the strong arm and the injured arm, till the sword drops from his hand.
- 23 And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them over foreign
- 24 lands. The arms of the king of Babylon I will strengthen; I will put my sword in his hand, and break the arms of the Pharaoh till he groans before him
- 25 like a man mortally wounded. I will put strength into the arms of the king of Babylon, and the arms of the Pharaoh shall give way. It will teach them that I am the Eternal, when I put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon, to brandish it over
- 26 Egypt. I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them over foreign lands; it will teach them that I am the Eternal."
- 31 In the eleventh year, on the first day of the third month, this word from the Eternal came to me: "Son of man, say this to the Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his host:
Who is like you in size?
- 3 You were a stately cedar in Lebānon,
with fair branches, very tall, its top among the clouds.
- 4 Waters nourished it, deep waters made it grow, pouring streams round the plantation,
- running rills through all the soil.
- So it rose in height,
high over all the trees,
with many a bough,
with branches stretching out—
thanks to the wealth of water.
- Within its boughs
all birds of the air nested;
under its branches
all animals brought forth their young;
yes, under its shadow
all the great nations lived.
- It was fair in its great size,
with its long branches—
so rooted was it
beside ample water.
- The very cedars in God's garden
could not rival it;
no cypress had boughs like it,
no plane had branches like it;
not a tree in God's own garden
was like it for beauty,
for number of branches;
the trees of Eden, in God's garden,
all envied it.
- Therefore the Lord the Eternal declares: Because it towered so high and raised its top to the clouds, priding itself on its height, I handed it over to the great power among the nations: foreigners, the most ruthless of races, cut it down and flung it on the hills, till its branches fell into every valley, and its broken boughs lay in all the ravines of the land: all races of the world forsook its shadow in dismay; the birds all perched upon its ruined trunk, and the animals all lay upon its branches. And this was in order that hereafter no trees growing beside water should exalt themselves in size, raising their tops to the clouds, that no trees fed by water should display their height; all

- of them are consigned to death, to the nether regions, to mix with common men, with those who go down to the pit below."
- 15 The Lord the Eternal proclaims: "On the day he went down below, I made the deep waters mourn for him, I checked the streams till the broad waters were stayed; I made Lebánon mourn for him, and all the trees
- 16 drooped for him; I shook the nations with the crash of his downfall, when I threw him into the underworld to mix with those who go down to the pit below, and in the nether regions the trees of Eden, the choicest and the best trees of Lebánon, nourished by water, were all
- 17 consoled by his fate. The nations shall also go down with him into the underworld, to join those whom the sword has slain, and his supporters, who lived under his shadow among the nations, shall also perish.
- 18 What tree of Eden rivals you in splendour and in size? Yet you must go down like the trees of Eden into the nether regions, and lie there in a shameful death, among men whom the sword has slain. So much for the Pharaoh and for all his host, says the Lord the Eternal."
- 32 In the eleventh year, upon the first day of the twelfth month, this word from the Eternal came to me: "Son of man, raise a dirge over the Pharaoh king of Egypt; say to him,
- 'Woe to you, Pharaoh, you are all undone!
You are like a monster in the streams,
snorting water from your nostrils,
- splashing the river with your feet,
fouling the streams.
The Lord the Eternal declares: 3
I will throw my net over you,
and haul you up in my net;
I will toss you on the land, 4
and fling you on the field;
I will make the birds all settle on you,
and glut the animals of all the earth with you;
I will strew your flesh upon the 5 hills,
and fill the valleys with your carcase;
I will drench earth with your 6 gushing blood,
till the watercourses are full of you.
When I extinguish you, 7
I will shroud the sky
and darken its stars,
I will shroud the sun with clouds,
and the moon shall not shine;
all the bright lights of the sky 8
I will darken over you,
bringing darkness on your land—
says the Lord the Eternal.'
- The heart of many a nation 9
will I trouble, when I proclaim your ruin to the nations, to countries that you never knew;
I will make many a race dismayed over you, and their kings shall shudder over you, when they see me brandishing my sword; they shall tremble every moment, every man for his own life, on the day of your downfall. For the Lord the Eternal 11 decrees: The sword of the king of Babylon shall fall upon you; I will make all your host fall by 12 the sword of warriors;
all of them are the most ruthless of races,

- and they shall ruin Egypt's
pride,
her host shall all be destroyed;
13 and all her beasts will I de-
stroy,
that live beside her many
streams;
no foot of man, no hoof of
beast,
shall foul the streams again;
14 I will make the waters settle,
till the rivers run smooth as
oil—
says the Lord the Eternal.
- 15 And when I lay the land of
Egypt waste and desolate,
emptied of all that filled it,
when I strike down all its
dwellers,
then shall they learn that I am
the Eternal.
- 16 This is the dirge to be chanted,
chanted by women of the na-
tions;
let them chant it over Egypt
and all her host,
says the Lord the Eternal."
- 17 In the twelfth year, on the
fifteenth day of the first month,
this word from the Eternal came
to me:
- 18 "Son of man, wail over
the host of Egypt, and send
them down with a lament, you
and the women of the mighty
nations, to the nether regions,
to join those who go down into
the pit below.
- 19 'Whom do you surpass in
beauty?
Yet down with you, down to a
shameful death,
20 you and all your host,
amid victims of the sword!'
- 21 'The mighty warriors in the
underworld shall hail him and
his allies:
'Down with you, down, to a
shameful death,
you and all your host,
amid victims of the sword!'
- 22 Assyria is down there with all
her folk, their graves around
their king's, buried in the abys- 23
ses of the pit, all victims of the
sword, who were a terror in the
land of the living. Elam is 24
there, with all her folk round
her grave, all victims of the
sword who have passed down
into the nether regions, men
who were a terror in the land of
the living and have gone down
to a shameful death, sharing dis-
grace with the victims who have
gone down into the pit of death.
Meshek and Tubal are there 25
with all their folk in graves
around them, all lying in a
shameful death, victims of the
sword, because they were a ter-
ror in the land of the living;
they shall not lie beside the 27
mighty warriors of old, who
went down to the underworld
with their weapons, their
swords lying under their heads,
and their shields upon their
skeletons, because they were a
terror in the land of the living.
(And, Pharaoh, you shall lie 28
among the defeated in disgrace,
the victims of the sword!) Edom 29
is there, with its kings and
princes, who for all their might
lie among the victims of the
sword, with the defeated in
disgrace, with those who go
down to the pit of death. The 30
princes of the north are all there,
and all the Phœnicians; they
have gone down with the slain,
for all the terror of their might,
and lie with the defeated in dis-
grace, sharing the shame of
those who go down to the pit
of death. To see all these may 31
be some comfort to the Pha-
raoh, over all his own host, says
the Lord the Eternal! He put 32
terror on the land of the living,
and for that he shall be laid
among the defeated in disgrace,

with the victims of the sword—the Pharaoh and all his host, says the Lord the Eternal.”

* * *

- 33 This word from the Eternal
 2 came to me: “Son of man, speak to your own people and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword upon a country, and the natives take one of their number and
 3 make him their sentinel; if he sees the sword coming on the land and blows the trumpet to
 4 warn the folk, then anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning but is swept off by the sword, that man is responsible for his own
 5 death. He heard the sound of the trumpet and he did not take warning; he is responsible for his own death. Had he taken warning, he would have saved
 6 his life. But if the sentinel does not blow the trumpet when he sees the sword coming, and if the sword comes and sweeps off anyone of the folk, that man is swept off on account of his iniquity, but for his death I will hold the sentinel responsible!
 7 Now, son of man, I have placed you as a sentinel for Israel; whenever you hear a word from my lips, warn them from
 8 me. When I tell the wicked, “You must die,”—then, if you do not say a word of warning to the wicked to give up his evil course, he has to die for his iniquity, but I will hold you
 9 responsible. Yet if you warn the wicked to give up his evil course and if he will not give it up, he has to die for his iniquity, but you have saved yourself.
 10 Son of man, tell Israel: “This is your cry, that “our transgressions and our sins press upon us, we are wasting away under them; how can we live?”

Tell them: By my life! says the 11 Lord the Eternal. I have no desire for the death of the wicked, but for him to live by giving up his evil course. Give up your evil courses, give them up: O Israel, why will you die?” And tell your people this, O son 12 of man: ‘A good man’s goodness shall not save him when he goes wrong: a wicked man’s wickedness shall not ruin him when he gives up his wickedness[; neither shall a good man’s goodness keep him alive when he sins]]. When I tell the good 13 man, “You shall live,” and when he relies upon his goodness and commits iniquity, none of his good deeds shall be remembered, he shall die for the iniquity he has committed. And 14 when I tell the wicked, “You shall die,” and when he gives up his sins and does what is lawful and right, restoring the 15 pledge deposited with him, refunding what he has robbed, and following the rules that lead to life, then he shall certainly live, he shall not die; none 16 of the sins he has committed shall be remembered against him; he has done what is lawful and right, he shall certainly live. Yet your people complain, 17 “The Lord is not acting fairly!” It is they who are not acting fairly. When a good man gives 18 up being good to commit iniquity, he shall die for it; when 19 a wicked man gives up being wicked to do what is lawful and right, he shall live by that. And yet you complain, “The 20 Eternal is not acting fairly!” O Israel, I will deal with every one of you as he has lived.’”

In the eleventh year of our 21 exile, on the fifth day of the tenth month, a man who had

escaped from Jerusalem came
 and told me, "The city has
 22 fallen." Now the hand of the
 Eternal had been upon me the
 evening before the fugitive
 arrived, but he had opened my
 mouth at the moment when the
 man reached me in the morning;
 my mouth had been opened and
 23 I was silent no longer. This
 word from the Eternal had
 24 come to me: "Son of man, those
 who haunt the ruins in the land
 of Israel are saying, 'Abraham
 was only one man and yet he
 was given possession of the
 entire land; we are many, and
 we are sure to have the land for
 25 our own.' Tell them what the
 Lord the Eternal says: 'You to
 possess the land, you who eat
 flesh with the blood in it and
 worship idols and commit blood-
 shed! You to possess the land,
 26 you who have recourse to the
 sword, you who commit detest-
 able impieties, you who seduce
 27 one another's wives! Tell them
 this is what the Lord the Eternal
 says: 'By my life! those in the
 ruins shall fall by the sword,
 those who are out in the open I
 shall let wild beasts devour, and
 those in the fortresses and
 28 caves shall die by pestilence; I
 will lay the land waste and
 desolate, the strength that was
 its pride shall pass, and the up-
 lands of Israel shall be deserted,
 29 without a wayfarer. When I
 lay the land desolate and waste
 for all their detestable impieties,
 then shall they realize that I
 am the Eternal.'
 30 As for you, O son of man,
 your people are talking about
 you in the streets and at the
 doors of their houses, saying to
 one another, 'Come and let us
 hear what is the word from the
 31 Eternal to-day!' They come to

you as usual, they sit in front
 of you, they hear your words,
 but they will not obey them;
 their lips are full of lies, and
 their minds are set upon their
 selfish ends, and they heed you 32
 as they would a love-song beau-
 tifully rendered and well played
 —they hear your words, but
 they will not obey them. Yet 33
 when the hour comes—and it
 is coming—they shall realize
 that there was a prophet among
 them!"

This word from the Eternal 34
 also came to me: "Son of man, 2
 prophesy against the rulers of
 Israel, prophesy thus to these
 shepherds: 'Here is what the
 Lord the Eternal says: Woe to
 the shepherds of Israel who have
 fed none but themselves! Ought
 not shepherds to feed their
 flock? You have seized the 3
 milk, you have clothed your-
 selves with the wool, you have
 killed the fatlings, but you have
 not fed the flock. You never 4
 put strength into the weak,
 you never healed the sickly,
 you never bandaged the crip-
 ples, you never recovered those
 who had been driven away, you
 never looked for those who were
 lost, and you were rough to
 those who were strong. So my 5
 flock has been scattered be-
 cause they had no shepherd,
 and it has been devoured by all
 the wild beasts. My flock 6
 strayed over all the uplands and
 over every high hill, scattered
 all over the face of the earth,
 with none to search for them,
 none to look for them.' Hear, 7
 then, what the Eternal has to
 say to you shepherds. 'By my 8
 life!' says the Lord the Eternal.
 'since my flock has become the
 prey and food of every wild

- animal, because there was no one to shepherd them (for the shepherds cared nothing about my flock, but fed themselves instead of feeding my flock)”—
- 9 hear then what the Lord the Eternal says, you shepherds—
- 10 ‘I am against the shepherds, I will demand my flock back from them, I will stop them from tending my flock; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves, I will rescue my flock from their greed, and no longer shall it be
- 11 food for them.’ For this is what the Lord the Eternal says: ‘I myself, I will search for my
- 12 flock and look for them. As a shepherd looks for his flock on the day when his sheep have been scattered, so will I search for my flock and bring them safe from all the places whither they have been scattered on a
- 13 day of clouds and darkness; I will gather them out of the nations and collect them from foreign lands and bring them into their own land, feeding them on the uplands of Israel, in the valleys, and in all habit-
- 14 able parts of the country. I will feed them upon good pasture; their grazing shall be on the uplands of Israel, where they shall lie down in a good place and graze on rich pasture amid
- 15 the heights of Israel, I myself will tend my flock, I will take them to their pasture,’ says the
- 16 Lord the Eternal. ‘I will look for the lost, I will recover those who have been driven away, I will bandage the cripples, I will put strength into the sick, and I will guard the strong and prosperous, attending to them
- 17 properly. As for you, my flock,’ says the Lord the Eternal, ‘I will judge between the weak sheep and the rams and he-
- goats. Is it not enough for you 18 to graze on the good pasture? Must you trample over the rest of the pasture? Is it not enough for you to claim the clear water? Must you foul the rest of the water with your feet? Are my 19 sheep to eat what you have trampled and to drink what you have fouled?’ This is what 20 the Lord the Eternal says: ‘I myself will take action. You 21 plump creatures, you have pushed the lean sheep away, with your sides and shoulders, butting at these feeble creatures with your horns till you have scattered them abroad! Now 22 I will rescue my flock, they shall be a prey no longer, and I will judge between sheep and sheep. Also I will place a single ruler 23 over them, that is, my servant David, who shall feed them and be their shepherd; I the Eternal 24 will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Eternal proclaim this. I will make a com- 25 pact of peace with them, banishing wild beasts from the country, so that they may live undisturbed in the open and sleep within the woods; I will 26 settle them round my own hill, blessing them with showers of rain at the right season; the 27 trees of the field shall bear fruit, the earth shall bring forth crops, and they shall live undisturbed in the land; they shall learn that I am the Eternal, when I break their yoke of slavery and rescue them from those who made them slaves; they shall no 28 longer be the prey of the nations, wild beasts shall not devour them, they shall live undisturbed, and none shall make them afraid. I will grant them 29 a right fertile soil, so that they

shall no longer be consumed by
hunger in the land and taunted
30 by the nations. Then shall they
learn that I the Eternal am
their God, and that they, Israel,
are my people,' says the Lord
31 the Eternal. 'You are my own
flock, the flock I tend, and I am
your God,' says the Lord the
Eternal."

35 This word from the Eternal
2 further came to me: "Son of
man, turn to mount Seir and
3 prophesy thus against it. The
Lord the Eternal declares:
Mount Seir, I am against you,
I strike a blow at you,
and lay you waste and desolate;
4 I lay your townships waste,
and you shall lie all desolate—
to teach you that I am the
Eternal.

5 Because you cherished a lasting
enmity against the Israelites,
because you handed them over
to the sword on the day of their
calamity, when they suffered
6 final punishment, therefore, by
my life! says the Lord the Eter-
nal, you have been guilty of
bloodshed, and blood shall pur-
7 sue you; I will lay mount Seir
waste and desolate, cutting off
all who come and go, and filling
the uplands with dead Edo-
8 mites. Men slain by the sword
shall fall over your hills and
valleys and all your water-
9 courses; I will lay you desolate
for all time, and your townships
shall never be peopled—to teach
10 you that I am the Eternal. Be-
cause you said, 'These two na-
tions and their lands shall be
ours, and we shall hold them'
(although the Eternal lived
11 there), therefore, by my life!
says the Lord the Eternal, I
will deal with you for the anger
and envy you dealt out to them

in your hatred; I will let you see
who I am, when I punish you,
and you shall learn that I, the 12
Eternal, have heard all your
reviling against the uplands of
Israel. You said, 'They are
desolate, they are ours, our
prey!' You vaunted loudly 13
against me; I heard it all! So 14
this is what the Lord the Eternal
says: 'I will lay you desolate, to
the delight of all the world; as 15
you maliciously delighted over
the desolation of Israel, so will
I deal with you; desolate shall
you be, O mount Seir, O Edom,
every inch of you.' It will teach
them that I am the Eternal."

"Son of man, prophesy thus 36
to the mountains of Israel.
'Mountains of Israel, listen to
the word of the Eternal. Here 2
is what the Lord the Eternal
says: Because the enemy gloated
over you and cried, "The old
sites on the hills are ours!"
therefore prophesy thus: The 3
Lord the Eternal declares, Be-
cause you have been left deso-
late and crushed on every side,
held by the riff-raff of the world,
the talk and evil gossip of the
mob, therefore, O mountains of 4
Israel, listen to what the Lord
the Eternal has to say to moun-
tains, hills, watercourses, valleys,
waste lands, and deserted cities,
that have become a prey and a
derision to the riff-raff of the
surrounding pagans—therefore, 5
the Lord the Eternal declares,
I speak in hot indignation of
the riff-raff of the pagans and es-
pecially of Edom, of all Edom, for
taking my land to be their own,
exulting in malicious spite, to
prey upon its pastures. There- 6
fore prophesy about the land of
Israel and tell the mountains,
hills, watercourses, and valleys

that the Lord the Eternal declares: I speak in indignation and in fury, because you have had to bear the taunting of the nations. Therefore, says the Lord the Eternal, I swear that the nations round you shall have to bear taunts when they are ruined. But you shall put out your branches, O mountains of Israel, you shall bear fruit for Israel my people; for soon they will be coming back. I am with you, I will care for you, and see that you are tilled and sown; I will put many people on you, even all the Israelites, every one of them; the towns shall be re-peopled, the waste places re-built; I will make the men and beasts upon you numerous, and settle you as you used to be—I will do better for you than at the first, and you shall learn that I am the Eternal. Yes, I will make men tread you again, the men of my people Israel; they shall possess you, and you shall be their property; you shall no longer be deadly to them. The Lord the Eternal declares: Because men taunt you with devouring men and being deadly to your nation, you shall no longer devour men nor be deadly to your nation—says the Lord the Eternal. I will no longer allow any sneer of the nations against you; you shall not suffer the taunting of the world, for you shall no longer be deadly to your nation. The Lord the Eternal has said it.”

This word from the Eternal further came to me: “Son of man, when the Israelites lived in their own land, they polluted it with their practices; to me their practices were as loathsome as a woman’s menstruous discharge; so I vented my fury upon them,

for drenching my land with bloodshed and polluting it with their idols; I scattered them among the nations, till they were dispersed over the world; I punished them for their practices. But it lowered my sacred honour to have them scattered thus among the nations; for people sneered, ‘These are the Eternal’s people, and yet they are driven out of the land!’ Now I had some concern for my sacred honour thus lowered by the dispersion of the Israelites. So tell the Israelites that this is what the Lord the Eternal has to say: It is not for your sakes, O Israel, that I take action, but for the sake of my own sacred honour which has been lowered by your dispersion among the nations. I will uphold my high honour which has been lowered and degraded by you among the nations; and when I show them what I am, by my dealings with you, then, says the Lord the Eternal, the nations shall learn that I am the Eternal. For I am going to gather you out of the nations and collect you from all countries and bring you back to your own land; then I will pour clean water over you, cleansing you from all your impieties and purifying you from all your idols; I will give you a new nature, and I will put a new spirit into you, I will take away your hard nature and give you a nature that can be touched; I will put my own spirit within you, I will make you live by my laws, and you shall obey and observe my orders. You shall live in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be my own people, and I will be your God; I will keep you clear of all your impurities. I will call to

the grain, till it multiplies; I will
 30 spare you any famine. I will
 make your fruit and your crops
 abundant, that you may no longer
 be taunted by the nations
 31 with famine. And then you shall
 remember your evil practices
 and your bad conduct, and
 loathe yourselves for your iniqui-
 32 ties and detestable deeds. But
 mark this, it is not for your
 sake that I act thus, says the
 Lord the Eternal; be ashamed
 and abashed for your miscon-
 duct, O Israel!"

33 This is what the Lord the
 Eternal says: "On the day that
 I cleanse you from all your iniqui-
 ties, I will have the towns
 repopled and the waste places
 34 rebuilt; the desolate land shall
 be tilled, instead of lying waste
 under the eyes of every passer-
 35 by, till men say, 'This land that
 once was desolate is like the
 garden of Eden to-day; waste
 places, desolate and ruined
 towns, are fortified and peopled!'
 36 It will teach the nations
 left around you that I the Eternal
 have rebuilt the ruined
 towns and replanted the deso-
 late land. I the Eternal have
 said it, and I will do it."

37 The Lord the Eternal de-
 clares, "I will also let Israel ask
 this from me and have it done
 for them: I will increase their
 38 numbers like a flock; like large
 flocks for sacrifice, like the flocks
 at Jerusalem for the festivals, so
 shall the ruined towns teem with
 men. It will teach them that I
 am the Eternal."

37 The hand of the Eternal was
 laid upon me; he carried me off
 in the spirit and set me down in
 a valley. It was full of bones;
 2 he made me go all round them,
 and I saw that they were very

many on the surface of the val-
 ley, and very dry. "Son of 3
 man," he said, "can these bones
 live?" "O Lord Eternal," I
 answered, "that is known only
 to thyself." He said to me, 4
 "Prophecy over these bones;
 say to them, 'O dry bones, listen
 to the word of the Eternal.' The 5
 Lord the Eternal has this word
 for the bones: 'I will make the
 breath of life enter you. I will 6
 put sinews upon you and cover
 you with flesh, and put breath
 into you; so shall you live, and
 learn that I am the Eternal.'"
 I prophesied as I was told. 7
 While I was prophesying, there
 was a sound of rattling; the
 bones came together, bone to
 bone, and, as I looked, there 8
 were sinews upon them! Flesh
 spread up over them, skin cov-
 ered them, but there was no
 breath in them. So he said to
 me, "Prophecy to the wind, son 9
 of man, give the wind these
 orders from the Lord the Eter-
 nal: 'Come from the four ends
 of the earth, O breath, and
 breathe life into these corpses.'"
 I prophesied as I was told, and 10
 the breath did enter into them;
 they came to life and stood
 upon their feet, a mighty host
 of them. "Son of man," he said 11
 to me, "these bones are the
 whole community of Israel.
 They cry, 'Our bones are dry,
 our hope is gone, we are un-
 done!' Prophecy therefore to 12
 them, tell them this word from
 the Lord the Eternal: 'O my
 people, I will open your graves
 and bring you out of your
 graves, back to the land of
 Israel. You shall be sure that I 13
 am the Eternal, after I have
 opened your graves and raised
 you from your graves, O my
 people. I will put my spirit 14

into you, and you shall live, and I will restore you to your own land; it will teach you that I the Eternal have said it and done it—says the Eternal.’ ”

- 15 This word from the Eternal
16 further came to me: “Son of man, take a stick and write on it, ‘Judah and the Israelites attached to him’; then take another stick and write upon it, ‘Joseph and all in Israel attached to him’; join them together, making a single stick within your hand. When your
17 countrymen ask you, ‘Will you not tell us what you mean by this?’ tell them that this is the word from the Lord the Eternal: ‘Here I am about to take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and his fellow-
18 clans, and join them to the stick of Judah, making a single stick within my hand.’ Hold the
19 sticks before their eyes and tell them that this is the word from the Lord the Eternal: ‘Here am I about to take the Israelites from the nations where they have gone, gathering them from every quarter and bringing them
20 back to their own land, where I will make them into a single nation, upon the uplands of Israel, with a single king reigning over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they be divided into two king-
21 doms any longer. They shall no longer befoul themselves with idols or detestable practices or any other transgressions; I will keep them clear of all the rebelliousness with which they have sinned, and I will purify them; so shall they be my own people,
22 and I will be their God. My servant David shall be king over them, their sole shepherd. They shall live by my laws, and

observe and obey my orders. They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where their fathers lived; there shall they live, they and their children and their children’s children for all time, with my servant David as their perpetual prince. I will make a compact of peace with them, a lasting compact; I will settle them and multiply them and set my sanctuary among them for all time; my dwelling-place shall be with them, I will be their God, and they shall be my people; and when my sanctuary remains among them for ever, the nations shall learn that I am the Eternal who sets Israel apart.’ ”

This word from the Eternal came to me: “Son of man, turn to Gog [[in the land of Magog]], the prince of Rosh and Meshek and Tubal; prophesy against him and tell him this from the Lord the Eternal: ‘O Gog, prince of Rosh and Meshek and Tubal, I am against you. I will bring you along, with all your army, horses and horsemen, in full armour, a mighty host all armed with shields and targes and all wielding swords, warriors from Persia, Kush, and Put, equipped with targes and helmets, all the hordes of the Cimmerians, all the hordes from Armenia in the far north, and many another nation in your train. Be ready, hold yourself ready, you and all your muster, hold yourself in reserve for me! You [[shall be summoned after many a day, and after many a year you]] shall attack the land that has been restored from desolation, the nation that has been gathered home from many a people, the uplands of Israel,

once a perpetual waste but now held by a nation gathered home from the peoples and living all undisturbed. You shall sweep up like a storm, covering the country like a storm-cloud, you and all your hordes and all the nations in your train. A plan will occur to your mind, says the Lord the Eternal; you will be forming an evil design, thinking, "I will invade this land of villages, I will attack this quiet folk who are all living in security, with never a wall or a bar or a gate." You will plan to get booty, to seize your prey, to assail repeopled wastes, a people gathered from the nations, living with their stores of cattle and property at the centre of the earth. The merchants of Shēba and Dedan, the traders of Tartessus, will be all asking you, "Is it for booty you have come? Have you mustered for plunder, to carry off silver and gold, to seize cattle and property, to win rich booty?" Prophesy therefore to Gog, son of man, tell him this from the Lord the Eternal: "When my people Israel are living undisturbed, will you bestir yourself and leave your seat in the far north, you and many a nation with you, all mounted on horseback, a mighty host, a huge army, sweeping up, after many a day, against my people Israel like a storm-cloud to cover the country? Yes, I will bring you against my land, to let the nations learn what I am, when I show them my dread divinity in handling you, O Gog." The Lord the Eternal proclaims: "It is you of whom I predicted long ago by my servants the prophets of Israel (who prophesied for many a year then), that

I would bring on your attack.' The Lord the Eternal declares: 18
 'On that day, the day when Gog invades the land of Israel, my 19
 fury will be roused: yes, in my indignation, in my hot anger, I decree that on that day there shall be a mighty earthquake in the land of Israel, when all 20
 fish in the sea, and wild birds, wild beasts, reptiles, and human beings shall all tremble at my presence, when mountains shall be torn apart, and cliffs topple over, and every wall drop to the ground. I will summon an utter 21
 panic against him, says the Lord the Eternal, till every man in his host shall draw the sword against his fellow; I will punish 22
 him with pestilence and bloodshed, I will rain on him and his hordes and all the nations in his train an over-powering flood, with hailstones, fire, and brimstone. I will let all the nations 23
 see my might and dread divinity—to teach them that I am the Eternal.'

Son of man, prophesy against 39
 Gog, tell him this from the Lord the Eternal: 'I am against you, Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshek, and Tubal! I will turn you, lead 2
 you on, bring you from the far north to attack the uplands of Israel, and then I will strike the 3
 bow from your left hand and knock the arrows out of your right hand; on the uplands of Israel you shall fall, you and all 4
 your hordes and allies; I will leave you as food for all sorts of ravenous birds and wild beasts to devour; in the open country 5
 you shall fall—I have said it, says the Lord the Eternal.' I 6
 will send fire to burn up Magog and the coast lands where men live securely—to teach them that I am the Eternal. I will 7

let my dread divinity be seen within my people Israel, and never allow my sacred honour to be lowered again; it will teach the nations that I am the Eternal, the Majestic One in Israel.

8 It is coming, it shall come to be, says the Lord the Eternal—here

9 is the day I predicted! The citizens of Israel shall go out and make firewood of the weapons, the targets, the shields, the bows and arrows, the pikes and spears; it will serve them as

10 firewood for some years, they shall not require to cut wood from the fields or the forests but shall use weapons as firewood; they shall plunder those who plundered them and prey on those who preyed on them (so the Lord the Eternal decrees).

11 I will give Gog then a famous place as his grave within Israel, the valley of Abârîm, east of the Dead Sea; there shall they bury Gog and all his mob, and call it

12 'The valley of Gog-mob!' The Israelites will be seven months in burying them, in order to

13 cleanse the land; all the natives shall bury them, and it will be a famous thing for them when I uphold my honour, says the

14 Lord the Eternal. They must select men who are to be constantly occupied in traversing the land and collecting the corpses that lie on the surface, so as to cleanse the land; this search is to be made after seven

15 months, and in the course of the search, when anyone sees a human bone, he must put up a mark beside it, till the burial parties come and bury the bone

16 in the valley of Gog-mob. So shall they cleanse the land.

17 Son of man, give this message from the Lord the Eternal

to all sorts of birds and to every wild beast: 'Come, gather and collect from all quarters to the feast of a sacrifice that I am preparing for you, a rich feast on the uplands of Israel, where you can eat flesh and drink blood; you shall eat the flesh of 18 heroes and drink the blood of the world's princes—their rams and lambs and goats and bullocks, all fatted animals of Bashan; you shall eat your fill of 19 the fat and drink yourselves drunk with the blood of the feast I am preparing for you: yes, at my board you can glut 20 yourselves on horses and riding animals, on heroes and warriors to the full. The Lord the Eternal has said it.'

Thus will I set up my honour 21 among the nations, till all see the vengeance I inflict and the heavy hand I lay upon them. From that day onwards Israel 22 shall be sure that I am the Eternal their God, and the 23 nations shall understand that Israel was exiled on account of their iniquity, that it was because they had been unfaithful to me that I withdrew my favour from them and handed them over to their foes, till they all fell by the sword; it was for 24 their unclean lives and their transgressions that I punished them and withdrew my favour from them. But now, says the 25 Lord the Eternal, I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole community of Israel, as I am jealous for my sacred honour. They shall 26 forget their shame and all their faithlessness to me, once they live undisturbed in their own land, with no one to scare them, once I bring them back from the 27 nations and gather them from

the countries of their foes, and let the nations see what I am by my dealings with Israel.

- 28 They shall understand that I am the Eternal their God from this, that it was I who sent them into exile abroad and I who gathered them back into
29 their own land, where I will never leave any of them alone again, never withdraw my favour from them again—for on the community of Israel I have poured out my spirit, says the Lord the Eternal.”

* * *

- 40 In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth of the month, the fourteenth year since the city had been captured, that very day the hand of the Eternal was laid upon me in a trance,
2 and he brought me in visions of God to the land of Israel and placed me on a very high mountain, upon which was a building like a city in front of
3 me. When he brought me thither, there stood a man whose appearance was like shining bronze, with a measuring tape of flax in his hand and also a measuring rod! The man
4 stood at the gateway, and he said to me, “Son of man, look with your eyes and listen with your ears, and fix your mind upon all that I am going to show you, for that is why you have been brought hither, that I might show it all to you; then tell the house of Israel whatever you see.”

- 5 There, all round the outside of the building, a wall ran; and when the man measured it with the measured rod in his hand, which was ten and a half feet long, he found the wall was ten and a half feet thick and ten

and a half feet high. He then 6 went to the gatehouse facing eastward and, climbing the steps, measured the outer lobby; it was ten and a half feet. Each 7 of the guard-rooms was ten and a half feet long and ten and a half feet broad, with a space of eight feet and three-quarters between them, while the inside 8 lobby of the gatehouse at the vestibule facing in to the temple was ten and a half feet. He 9 then measured the vestibule itself, which was fourteen feet, while the jambs were three feet six. This gatehouse facing 10 eastward had three guard-rooms on each side, all of the same size, like the spaces between them. He measured the breadth 11 of the outside entrance; it was seventeen and a half feet . . . a partition projected for twenty- 12 one inches below the guard-rooms, on either side of the passage, while the guard-rooms themselves were ten and a half feet square. The gatehouse 13 measured forty-three and three-quarters feet across, from the back door of one guard-room to another, while the vestibule 14 measured thirty-five feet—the vestibule leading from the gatehouse into the outer court. From the outside front to the 15 inner entry the gatehouse measured eighty-seven feet and a half. Latticed loopholes were 16 let into the guard-rooms, the spaces between them, and also the porch, all round the interior, while the jambs were decorated with palms.

Then he took me into the 17 outer court, and there were chambers fronting on a pavement which ran round the walls of the court; thirty chambers there were, and this the lower 18

pavement was next the gateways, corresponding to them in breadth. Then he measured the breadth of the court between the inside of the outer gate and the outside of the inner court; it was a hundred and seventy-five feet, measured alike from east and north. He also measured the length and breadth of the gateway of the outer court which faced northward; it had three guard-rooms on each side, the jambs and porch were the same size as those of the first gate, and it was eighty-seven and a half feet long by forty-three and three-quarters broad. The windows, its porch, and its palms were the same size as those of the gatehouse facing eastward; it was reached by a flight of seven steps, and the porch looked inward. The inner court had a gatehouse opposite the outer gatehouse, to the north and to the east, at a distance of a hundred and seventy-five feet, measured from one gatehouse to another. He then led me southward, and there was a gatehouse facing southward; he took the same measurements of the jambs and the porch; it had latticed loopholes, as the porch had, all round, like the other loopholes, and was eighty-seven and a half feet long, by forty-three and three-quarters in breadth. It was reached by seven steps, and the porch looked inward; it had also palms upon the jambs on either side. There was also a gatehouse in the inner court facing southward; he measured the distance between them, a hundred and seventy-five feet. He then took me into the inner court through the southern

gatehouse, taking the same measurements of the southern gateway, with its guard-rooms, its jambs, and its porch; it had loopholes, as the porch had, all round, and was eighty-seven and a half feet long, by forty-three and three-quarters in breadth. The porch looked outward, the jambs were decorated with palms, and it was reached by eight steps. He then took me into the inner court on the east side, taking the same measurements of that gatehouse, with its guard-rooms, its jambs, and its porch; it had loopholes, as the porch had, all round, and was eighty-seven and a half feet long by forty-three and three-quarters in breadth. The porch looked outward, the jambs on both sides were decorated with palms, and it was reached by eight steps. He took me to the northern gatehouse, taking the same measurements of it, of the guard-rooms, the jambs, and the porch; it also had loopholes all round, and it was eighty-seven and a half feet long, by forty-three and three-quarters in breadth. The porch looked outward, the jambs on both sides were decorated with palms, and it was reached by eight steps.

There was a chamber entering from the porch of the gatehouse, where they washed the burnt-offering victims. And on each side of the porch of the gatehouse stood two tables, for slaying the victims for the burnt-offering and the sin-offering and the guilt-offering. On the outside, at the stair on the north side of the entry, stood two tables, and on the opposite side of the porch stood two

41 tables. Four tables stood on
 either side of the gatehouse,
 eight tables in all, for the pur-
 42 poses of slaughter. Four tables
 for the burnt-offering were cut
 out of stone, two and a half feet
 in length, two and a half feet in
 breadth, and twenty-one inches
 in height; on these they laid the
 implements for slaying the vic-
 tims for the burnt-offering
 43 [[and the sacrifice]]. Inside the
 porch there were ledges fastened
 all round, nine inches broad.
 The sacrificial flesh lay on the
 44 tables. Outside the inner gate-
 houses there were two chambers
 in the inner court, one beside
 the northern gatehouse, facing
 southward, and the other be-
 side the southern gatehouse,
 45 facing northwards. And he said
 to me, "This chamber to the
 south is for the priests who are
 46 in charge of the temple; the
 chamber to the north is for the
 priests who are in charge of the
 altar, that is, for the sons of
 Zadok, the Levites who ap-
 proach the Eternal to minister."
 47 He measured the court—a hun-
 dred and seventy-five feet long,
 by a hundred and seventy-five
 feet broad—also the altar in
 48 front of the temple. Then he
 took me to the vestibule of the
 temple and measured each jamb
 on either side, eight feet and
 three-quarters thick; the en-
 trance was twenty-four and a
 half feet broad, and the side-
 pieces of the entrance of the
 vestibule were each five and a
 49 quarter feet. The vestibule
 itself was thirty-five feet long,
 by nineteen and a quarter
 broad, and it was reached by a
 flight of ten steps, while two
 pillars stood one on each side of
 the jambs.
 41 He then took me into the

nave, measuring the jambs on
 either side; they were ten and a
 half feet thick—such was the
 thickness of the jambs. The 2
 entrance was seventeen and a
 half feet wide, and each front
 of the door was eight and three-
 quarters feet; he measured the
 nave, it was seventy feet long
 by thirty-five feet broad. Then,
 passing inside, he measured 3
 each jamb of the entrance—
 three and a half feet thick; the
 entrance measured ten and a
 half feet, and the sides of the
 entrance were twelve feet and
 a quarter on each side. The 4
 chancel itself measured thirty-
 five feet long and broad, in
 front of the shrine: "This," he
 said to me, "is the most sacred
 shrine." He then measured the 5
 wall of the temple; it was ten and
 a half feet thick. Each of the
 side-chambers round the wall
 was seven feet broad. There 6
 were three stories, each with
 thirty side-chamber: which
 were attached to the wall for
 support but not let into it. The 7
 higher the side-chambers rose,
 the wider they became all
 round the building, which they
 surrounded more closely than
 ever; you went up from the
 lowest story to the top by the
 middle story. The temple 8
 seemed to be surrounded by a
 raised platform fully ten and a
 half feet high, on which the
 side-chambers rested; their out- 9
 side wall was eight feet and
 three-quarters thick; beyond
 that lay a margin of eight feet
 and three-quarters, while a pas- 10
 sage of thirty-five feet ran all
 round the side-chambers. The 11
 doors of the side-chambers
 opened on the platform, one to
 the north and one to the south,
 the breadth of the margin being

- eight feet and three-quarters.
- 12 The annexe facing the western side of the rear-court was a hundred and twenty-two and a half feet broad; the wall round it was seven and a half feet thick, and it was a hundred and fifty-seven and a half feet long.
- 13 He measured the temple-building—it was a hundred and seventy-five feet long; the temple court and the west building with its walls was a hundred and
- 14 seventy-five feet long; and the eastern part of the building with the temple court was also a hundred and seventy-five feet
- 15 long, while the length of the annexe with its arcades and side-walls in front of the rear temple-court was also a hundred and seventy-five feet. The
- 16 nave and the sacred shrine, with its outer porch, were roofed in; all three had latticed loopholes
- 17 and galleries, and the whole interior was wainscoted with
- 18 wood; from the floor of the interior up to the windows and over the door, as well as along the
- 19 outer walls, it was all panelled with kherubs and palms, a palm between each pair of
- 20 kherubs and each kherub with two faces, the face of a man
- 21 turned to one palm and the face of a lion to the other. This ran
- 22 all round the building. Kherubs and palms were carved from the floor to above the
- 23 door. The wall of the sacred shrine was four-square; in front of it there was something resembling an altar of wood, five and a quarter feet high and three and a half feet long, the tips and the base and the sides being entirely of wood. "This," he said to me, "is the table sacred to the Eternal's service."
- 23 The nave and the shrine had

two doors apiece; and the doors 24 had each two leaves that swung round; on the doors of the nave kherubs and palms were carved. like those upon the walls. There 25 was a heavy wooden canopy over the front of the outside porch, and the porch had latticed loopholes and palms on either side of it. Then the side-chambers and the canopies of the building. . .

Then he took me into the 42 outer court towards the northern entrance, to the chambers stretching along the passage, opposite the northern wall of the building; their length on 2 the northern side was a hundred and seventy-five feet, and their breadth eighty-seven and a half feet, between the inner 3 court and the platform belonging to the outer court. On the third story there were gangways facing one another; a passage, 4 seventeen and a half feet broad, and a hundred and seventy-five feet long, leading to the inner court, ran in front of the chambers; upon which the doors of the chambers, that faced north, opened. The chambers in the 5 top story were smaller, since the gangways took from their size as compared with the ground story and the middle story. (For there were three stories; 6 only, they had no pillars like the chambers of the outer court.) Hence the top story was contracted, unlike the ground story and the middle story. The 7 outer wall of the chambers, facing the outer court, was eighty-seven and a half feet long; for 8 the length of the chambers in the outer block was eighty-seven and a half feet, and these two rows faced the others which stretched for a hundred and

- 9 seventy-five feet. Below the chambers of this outer block was the eastern entrance from the outer court, at the head of
 10 the outer wall. On the south side, opposite the temple-court and the outer wall of the building, lay chambers with a passage
 11 in front of them; they were like the chambers facing the north, the same length and the same
 12 breadth, with the same exits and arrangements, and with doors corresponding to theirs, only facing the south. At the head of the passage there was a door in front of the wall on the east, as one entered from the
 13 outer court. Then he said to me, "The north and the south chambers opposite the temple court are the sacred chambers where the priests who attend the Eternal can eat the sacred food and deposit the sacred portions of the cereal-offering, the sin-offering, and the guilt-offering; for the place is sacred.
 14 When the priests enter the inner court, they must not leave it for the outer court without depositing in this sacred place their robes of service (which are sacred) and putting on other robes; then they can approach the people outside."
 15 Then, after he had finished measuring the inner house, he took me outside to the gateway facing eastward. He measured the building all round with his
 16 rod; the east side measured eight hundred and seventy-five
 17 feet. Turning to the north, he measured that side; it was eight hundred and seventy-five feet.
 18 Turning to the south, he measured that side; it was eight hundred and seventy-five feet.
 19 Turning to the west, he measured that side; it was eight

hundred and seventy-five feet. He measured the building on its 20 four sides, walled round for eight hundred and seventy-five feet in length and in breadth, to mark the boundary between what was sacred and what was unconsecrated.

He then took me to the gate- 43 way that looked eastward, and 2 there from the east came the Splendour of the God of Israel! The sound of him was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his splendour. The appearance I saw was like 3 the appearance I had seen in the vision when he came to destroy the city, or like what I had seen at the river Kēbar. I fell upon my face, and the 4 Splendour of the Eternal passed into the temple through the gateway facing eastward. Then 5 the Spirit caught me up into the inner court. The Eternal's Splendour filled the temple, and 6 I heard someone speaking to me out of the temple, while the man stood beside me. "Son of 7 man," I was told, "here is the seat of my throne, here is the place for the soles of my feet, where I will dwell among the Israelites for ever; the house of Israel, they and their kings, shall never again sully my sacred presence with their idolatry and the corpses of their dead kings, by putting the royal 8 threshold next my threshold and the royal doorposts beside my doorposts, with only a wall between myself and them; they sullied my sacred presence with these abominable practices, and therefore in anger I destroyed them. Now let them remove 9 their idolatry and the corpses of their dead kings far away from me, and then I will dwell

- 10 among them for ever. Son of
man, show the house of Israel
the temple, its form and its
11 design, that they may feel
ashamed of all they have done;
show them the construction of
the temple, its exits and en-
trances, and all its rules and
regulations and constitution;
write it all down before their
eyes that they may keep all its
constitution and carry out all
12 its regulations. Here is the law
for the temple; the whole terri-
tory on the top of the mountain
shall be sacred ground. Such is
13 the law for the temple. Here
are the special measurements of
the altars. The gutter is to be
twenty-one inches deep and
twenty-one inches broad, with
a rim of nine inches round the
edge; this is to form the base-
14 ment of the altar. Three and
a half feet up from the base-
ment there is to be a ledge
twenty-one inches wide; then,
seven feet higher there is to be
another ledge twenty-one inches
15 wide. The topmost stone of
the altar is also to be seven
feet high, with four knobs pro-
jecting from this altar-hearth,
each twenty-one inches in
16 height. The altar-hearth is to
be twenty-one feet square; the
stone beneath it, twenty-four
and a half feet square—with
rims round them of ten inches.
The basement at the foot is to
be twenty-one inches wide. And
the steps are to face east.
- 18 "Son of man," he continued,
"these are the orders of the
Lord Eternal. The regulations
for the altar are: on the day it
is erected, for sacrificing burnt-
offerings and being splashed
19 with blood, you must give the
Levitical priests who belong to
the Zadokite family and who

approach me to minister (says
the Lord Eternal), a bullock as
a sin-offering; take some of its 20
blood and smear the four knobs
of the altar and the four cor-
ners of the ledge and the rim
round the ledge; so the altar
shall be cleansed and purified.
Take the bullock of the sin- 21
offering and have it burned at
the proper spot, outside the
sanctuary. Then, on the sec- 22
ond day, you must offer an
unblemished he-goat for a sin-
offering, and the altar must
again be cleansed as in the case
of the bullock. When you have 23
finished cleansing it, you must
sacrifice an unblemished bullock
and an unblemished ram, pre- 24
senting them before the Eter-
nal; the priests must sprinkle
salt upon them and sacrifice
them as a burnt-offering to the
Eternal. For seven days you 25
must provide every day a he-
goat as a sin-offering; also an
unblemished bullock and a ram
must be provided daily for seven
days; so the priests must go on 26
purifying and purging the altar
and consecrating it. At the 27
end of these days, from the
eighth day onwards, the priests
shall sacrifice your burnt-offe-
rings and your recompense-offe-
rings upon the altar, and I will
admit you to my favour, says
the Lord the Eternal."

Then he brought me back to 44
the outer gatehouse of the sanc-
tuary that faces eastward, and
it was shut. "This gate shall 2
be shut," said the Eternal to
me, "it shall never be opened,
no man shall enter by this gate;
the Eternal, the God of Israel,
has entered by it, and therefore
it shall be shut. The prince 3
alone may sit within the gate-
house to eat the sacrificial meal

- before the Eternal there, but he must enter and leave by way
 4 of the vestibule." Then he took me, by way of the north gate, to the front of the temple; and when I looked, there was the Splendour of the Eternal filling the temple of the Eternal! I
 5 fell upon my face, and the Eternal said to me, "Son of man, attend, look with your eyes, hear with your ears all that I tell you about all the rules and regulations for the temple of the Eternal and note all about the entry to the temple and the
 6 exits from the sanctuary. Tell these rebels of Israelites: Here are the orders of the Lord the Eternal. No more of your
 7 abominable conduct, O Israelites, profaning this house of mine by introducing into my sanctuary aliens who are uncircumcised in heart as well as in flesh, as you sacrifice the fat and the blood that are my food! You have violated your compact with me by all this
 8 abominable conduct. You have not done your sacred duties to me yourselves, but appointed these foreigners to do duty inside my sanctuary! Here are the orders of the Lord the
 9 Eternal then: No foreigner whatever among the Israelites, no foreigner uncircumcised in heart as well as in flesh, is to
 10 enter my sanctuary. The Levites who went far from me when Israel went astray, who left me for their idols, they
 11 must suffer the penalty of being no more than attendants in my sanctuary; they must take charge of the gates of the temple and do service in the temple, slaughtering the animals of the burnt-offering and the sacrifice for the people, and
 waiting on the people by way of ministry. As they ministered 12 to the people in presence of their idols and made the Israelites fall into iniquity, so have I sworn an oath against them, says the Lord the Eternal; they 13 must suffer the penalty of never approaching me again to act as my priests and never approaching again any of my sacred, my most sacred possessions. No, they must suffer the shame of their abominable conduct, and 14 I shall reduce them to taking charge of all the work and of all that goes on in the temple. But the Levitical priests, the 15 Zadokites, who did duty in my sanctuary when the Israelites went astray from me, they shall approach me to serve me; they shall stand in my presence to offer me the fat and the blood, says the Lord the Eternal, they 16 shall enter my sanctuary, they shall approach my table to serve me, they shall do their duty to me. When they enter the gates 17 of the inner court, they shall wear linen robes; they must not wear anything woollen when they are on service at the gates of the inner court or in the interior. They must wear linen 18 turbans on their heads, and linen drawers on their loins; they must not wear anything that causes sweat. On going 19 out to the people, in the outer court, they must take off their robes of ministry and deposit them in the sacred chambers, lest they make the people sacred by the touch of their robes. They must not shave their heads 20 nor let their hair grow long; they are only to trim their hair. No priest shall drink wine when 21 he enters the inner court; no 22 priest shall marry a widow or

a divorced woman, but only an Israelite virgin or the widow of a priest. They must teach the people the difference between what is sacred and what is unconsecrated, and show them how to distinguish what is unclean and what is clean. In the case of a dispute they are to act as judges, deciding the case in terms of my law. They must carry out my instructions and directions at all my sacred festivals, and maintain my sabbaths sacred. They must never contaminate themselves by touching a dead body, except in the case of a father, a mother, a son, a daughter, a brother, or an unmarried sister. Seven days must pass after a priest has been thus contaminated, and when he enters the inner court, to serve in the sanctuary, he must sacrifice a sin-offering for himself, says the Lord the Eternal. Priests shall hold no property; I am all their property! You must not give them any holding in Israel; I am their holding! The cereal-offerings, the flesh of the sin-offering and of the guilt-offering, that shall be their food, and anything set apart for the Eternal shall be theirs. The best of all the first-fruits and every oblation that you offer shall go to the priests; also you must give the priest the best of your baking, that a blessing may rest upon your house. No priest must eat any bird or beast that has died a natural death or that has been torn to pieces. When you are dividing up the land you must set apart a sacred district for the Eternal, eight and a third miles long and six and two-third miles broad, the whole extent of which is to be sacred.

Measure off from this a strip 3 for the priests who serve in the sanctuary, who approach the Eternal in his service; it shall 4 contain their houses and their grounds, and cover ground eight 2 and a third miles long, and three and a third miles broad, within which shall stand the sacred sanctuary on a square plot of two hundred and ninety yards, surrounded by an enclosure of twenty-nine yards. Another strip eight and a third 5 miles long and three and a third miles broad shall belong to the Levites who serve the temple; they are to have that land for their townships. Then the city 6 is to have a strip of land eight and a third miles long and a mile and two-thirds broad, alongside of the sacred reservation; this shall belong to the whole of Israel. The prince is 7 to hold the whole of the land east and west of the sacred reservation and of the city-land, on both sides, corresponding in length to one of the clan-zones and stretching from the western to the eastern frontier. Such is 8 to be his holding in Israel. No prince shall oppress my people in future; Israel is to hold the land according to its clans. Here are the orders of the Lord 9 the Eternal: Enough, O princes of Israel! Cease harrying and despoiling the people, enforce law and justice, relieve my people of your evictions, says the Lord the Eternal. You must 10 have just balances, just dry and liquid measures; the dry homer and the liquid bath must be of the same standard, the bath containing a tenth of the liquid homer, and the ephah a tenth of the dry homer, the homer being the standard of measure-

- 12 ment. The shekel is to be
twenty gerahs; five shekels are
to count five, ten shekels ten,
and the maneh is to be fifty
13 shekels. By way of dues, one-
sixth of every bushel of wheat
is to be set aside, with one-
sixth of every bushel of barley,
14 and a proportion of oil amount-
15 ing to one per cent., with one
lamb out of every two hundred;
all the families of Israel shall
make this contribution for the
cereal-offering, the burnt-offering,
and the recompense-offering,
by way of expiation, says
16 the Lord Eternal; the entire
population must offer this con-
tribution to the prince in Israel,
17 and it shall be the prince's duty
to provide the burnt-offering,
the cereal-offering, and the liba-
tion; at the festivals, at every
new moon, and on the sabbaths,
at all the great occasions in Is-
rael, he shall provide the sin-
offering, the cereal-offering, the
burnt-offering, and the recom-
pense-offering, by way of ex-
18 piation for Israel. Here are the
orders of the Lord the Eternal:
On the first day of the first
month you must take an un-
blemished bullock to purify the
19 sanctuary; the priest is to take
some of the blood from the sin-
offering and smear the doorposts
of the temple, the four corners
of the ledge of the altar, and
the posts at the gateways of
20 the inner court. This must be
repeated on the first day of the
seventh month, for anyone who
has erred inadvertently or by
mistake; so shall you make ex-
21 piation for the temple. On the
fourteenth day of the first
month you shall hold the festi-
val of passover, eating unleav-
22 ened bread for seven days; and
on that day the prince shall
provide a bullock as a sin-
offering for himself and for the
entire population, while during 23
the seven days of the festival
he shall provide every day a
sacrifice for the Eternal con-
sisting of seven bullocks and
seven rams, all unblemished,
besides a he-goat as a sin-
offering every day. He must 24
also provide, by way of cereal-
offering, a bushel of grain for
every bullock, a bushel of grain
for every ram, and a gallon and
a half of oil with every bushel.
On the fifteenth day of the 25
seventh month, he must do the
same, for seven days at the
festival, providing for the sin-
offering, the burnt-offering, the
cereal-offering, and the oil." 26
Here are the orders of the Lord 46
the Eternal: "The gate of the
inner court that faces eastward
shall be shut during the six
working days, and open on the
sabbath as well as on the day
of the new moon. The prince 2
must enter by the vestibule of
the gatehouse and remain stand-
ing at the doorpost of the gate-
house, while the priests offer his
burnt-offering and his recom-
pense-offering; he must perform
his worship at the threshold of
the gate, and then go out; the
gate is not to be shut till the
evening. The commons are also 3
to worship before the Eternal at
the door of that gate, on sab-
baths and at new moons. The 4
burnt-offering which the prince
is to sacrifice to the Eternal on
sabbath shall be six lambs and
one ram, all unblemished; the 5
cereal-offering shall be a bushel
of grain for the ram, as much
as he pleases for the lambs, and
a gallon and a half of oil with
every bushel. At the new moon 6
it shall be an unblemished bul-

lock, six unblemished lambs,
 7 and an unblemished ram; he must provide also a cereal-offering of a bushel of grain for the bullock, a bushel of grain for the ram, as much as he pleases for the lambs, and a gallon and a half of oil with
 8 every bushel. When the prince enters, it must be by the vestibule of the gate, and he must
 9 leave by the same way; but when the commons come into the presence of the Eternal at the fixed festivals, whoever enters by the north gate to worship must leave by the south gate, and whoever enters by the south gate must leave by the north gate; no one is to leave by the gate at which he entered, he must pass out straight ahead.
 10 The prince shall enter along with them, and leave when they
 11 leave. On the festivals and feast-days the cereal-offering is to be a bushel of grain for every bullock, a bushel of grain for every ram, and as much as he pleases for every lamb, and a gallon and a half of oil with
 12 every bushel. When the prince provides a freewill offering for the Eternal, a burnt-offering or a recompense-offering, the eastern gate shall be opened for him, and he shall make his burnt-offering and recompense-offering as on the sabbath; then he must leave, and the gate
 13 shall be shut after him. He must provide daily an unblemished yearling lamb as a burnt-offering to the Eternal; that must be provided morning by
 14 morning, and every morning he must furnish it with a cereal-offering, a sixth of a bushel of grain, also a third of a gallon of oil to moisten the fine flour; this is a standing order for the

service of the Eternal. He must 15 provide the lamb, the cereal-offering, and the oil, every morning for a perpetual burnt-offering. Here are the orders of 16 the Lord the Eternal: If the prince present any part of his property to one of his sons, it shall belong to the son; it is his own possession. But if he pre- 17 sent any part of his property to one of his servants, it shall only remain his till the year of liberty, when it shall revert to the prince. Whereas what his sons hold remains their own. Nor shall the prince seize any 18 of the people's land, to eject them from their property; he must provide for his sons out of his own property; none of my people is to be evicted from his property."

Then he took me through the 19 entrance beside the gateway to the north row of the sacred chambers of the priests; there I saw a place at the western end, and he said to me, "This is the 20 place where the priests are to boil the flesh of the guilt-offering and the sin-offering, and to bake the cereal-offering, so as not to bring them into the outer court and thus make the people sa- 21 cred." Then he took me into the outer court past the four corners of the court; and there, at each corner, was a small en- 22 closure; at the four corners of the court there were four small courts, the same in size, each 23 seventy feet long and fifty-two and a half broad. Round each of them, inside, ran a row of masonry, with fire-places ar- 24 ranged under it. "These," he told me, "are the fire-places where the officials of the temple boil the sacrificial meat for the people."

- 47 Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and there was water flowing east from under the threshold of the temple (the temple fronted east)! The water was flowing from the south side of the temple, past the altar on the south.
- 2 He then took me out by the northern gate and led me round upon the outside to the outer gate that faced eastward, and there was water pouring on the
- 3 south side! Passing eastward, with the measuring tape in his hand, he measured a third of a mile, and then took me across: the water was up to my ankles.
- 4 Again he measured a third of a mile, and took me across: the water was up to my knees. Again he measured a third of a mile, and took me across: the water was up to my waist.
- 5 Again he measured a third of a mile; and it was a stream I could not ford, the water was deep enough to swim in, it was a stream too high to be forded.
- 6 "Son of man," he asked, "do you see this?" Then he took me back along the bank of the
- 7 stream, and there by the bank of the stream on both sides,
- 8 many a tree was growing! He told me, "This water flows to the region of the east, down through the Arâbah ravine, into the Dead Sea, into the brackish waters which shall turn fresh.
- 9 Wherever the stream goes, every living creature that swarms shall live; there shall be shoals of
- 10 fish, and fishermen shall stand beside the Dead Sea from Engēdi to Eneglaim; it shall be a place for casting nets, and its fish shall be as varied and numerous as the fish of the
- 11 great Mediterranean. Only, the marshes and swamps shall not

turn fresh; they are to be left for supplying salt. On the 12 bank of the stream, along both sides, every sort of food-tree shall grow; their leaves shall not wither and their fruit shall never fail; every month they shall bear fresh fruit, thanks to the water that flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit shall serve for food, their leaves for healing."

* * *

Here are the orders of the 13 Lord the Eternal: This is the frontier for your division of the land among the twelve clans of Israel. You must share it 14 equally; I swore to give the land to your fathers, and it shall fall to you as your possession. The frontier of the 15 land on the north is from the Mediterranean through Hethlon to the pass of Hamath as far as Zedad, then on to Berôtha, 16 Sibrain (lying between the frontiers of Damascus and Hamath), and Hazar-enon (on the frontier of Hauran); that is, the frontier 17 shall run from the sea to Hazar-enon on the frontier of Damascus, bounded by the pass of Hamath to the north. That is the northern frontier. The east- 18 ern frontier shall start from between Hauran and Damascus, and, between Gilead and the land of Israel, it shall be the Jordan; it shall stretch from the northern frontier to the Dead Sea on the east, as far south as Tamar. That is the eastern 19 frontier. The southern frontier shall run from Tamar as far as the waters of Meribath-Kadesh, to the Wady-el-Arish and then to the Mediterranean. That is the southern frontier. The 20 western shall be the Mediterranean from the southern frontier up to a point opposite the

- pass of Hamath; that is the
 21 eastern frontier. This land you
 must divide among yourselves,
 22 the clans of Israel. You must
 allot it among yourselves and
 among the resident aliens who
 bring up families among you;
 they are to count as natives
 and to be allotted land of their
 own among the clans of Israel;
 23 you must assign the resident
 alien his land within the clan
 where he stays, says the Lord
 the Eternal."
- 48 The following are the names
 of the clans. On the northern
 frontier from the Mediterranean
 by Hethlon to the pass of Ha-
 math, as far as Hazar-enon,
 bounded on the north by Ha-
 math, Dan has one zone, from
 2 east to west. Next to Dan,
 from east to west, Asher's zone;
 3 next to Asher, from east to west,
 4 Naphtali's zone; next to Naph-
 tali, from east to west, Manas-
 seh's zone; next to Manasseh,
 5 from east to west, Ephraim's
 zone; next to Ephraim, from
 6 east to west, Reuben's zone;
 7 next to Reuben, from east to
 8 west, Judah's zone. Next to
 Judah, from east to west, shall
 be the reservation which you
 must set apart, eight and a
 third miles wide, and as long as
 one of the clan-zones from east
 to west; the sanctuary shall
 9 stand here. The reservation
 you must set apart for the
 Eternal shall be eight and a
 third miles wide and six and a
 10 third miles long. Of this sacred
 reservation the priests shall
 have a zone eight and a third
 miles long from east to west,
 and three and a third miles
 wide from north to south, con-
 taining the sanctuary of the
 11 Eternal; these consecrated
 priests, the Zadokites, who did
 their duty to me and did not
 go astray, as the Levites did,
 when the Israelites went astray,
 shall have a special section of 12
 the reservation, a most sacred
 strip, on the southern border of
 the Levites, whereas the Levites 13
 shall have a zone along the
 northern border of the priests,
 measuring eight and a third
 miles long and three and a third
 miles wide. The entire reserva-
 tion shall be eight and a third
 miles long and six and a third
 miles wide. No part of this 14
 choice land is ever to be sold or
 exchanged or alienated: it is
 sacred to the Eternal. The re- 15
 maining section of the reserva-
 tion, a mile and two-thirds wide
 and eight and a third miles in
 length, shall not be sacred; it is
 for the city with its houses and
 suburbs, the city lying in the
 middle. The city shall measure 16
 a mile and a half square; its 17
 suburbs shall cover a hundred
 and forty-seven yards on each
 side of the square, and the re- 18
 mainder of the strip, over three
 miles on the east and over three
 miles on the west, stretching
 along the sacred reservation,
 shall serve to support the work-
 ers in the city, and shall be 19
 cultivated by the workers in the
 city, belonging to all the clans
 of Israel. The entire reserva- 20
 tion, including the city-strip, is
 to measure seven and a third
 miles square. The rest of the 21
 territory shall belong to the
 prince, that is, the land on
 either side of the sacred reser-
 vation and of the city-strip, also
 eight and a third miles broad
 and running parallel to the zones
 of the clans—the sacred reserva-
 tion (with the temple and the
 Levites' domain) and the city- 22

strip intersecting it, and the frontier of Judah and Benjamin
 23 bounding it. As for the rest of the clans: from east to west,
 24 Benjamin's zone; next to Benjamin, from east to west, Simeon's zone; next to Simeon, from
 25 east to west, Issachar's zone; next to Issachar, from east to
 26 west, Zebulun's zone; next to Zebulun, from east to west,
 28 Gad's zone; next to Gad, on the south, the frontier shall run from Tamar to the waters of Meribath-Kadesh, thence to the Wady-el-Arish, and on to the
 29 Mediterranean. Such is the land you are to allot to the clans of Israel as their possession, and such shall be their

holdings, says the Lord Eternal.

These shall be the dimensions^{30a} of the city. The gates shall be^{31a} named after the clans of Israel; on the northern side of a mile^{30b} and a half, three gates, Reuben,^{31b} Judah, and Levi; on the eastern ³² side of a mile and a half, three gates, Joseph, Benjamin, and Dan; on the southern side of a ³³ mile and a half, three gates, Simeon, Issachar, and Zebulun; and on the western side of a ³⁴ mile and a half, three gates, Gad, Asher, and Naphtali. In ³⁵ circumference it shall measure about six miles. And from that day the city's name shall be: "The Eternal-there."

DANIEL

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon went and besieged Jerusalem; and, as the Eternal allowed
2 Jehoiakim king of Judah to fall into his hands with some of the vessels belonging to the house of God, he brought the captives into the land of Shinar and put the vessels into the treasury of
3 his god. The king told Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs to introduce into the palace some of the Israelites who belonged to the royal family and
4 the nobility, youths who had no bodily blemish, who were good-looking, intelligent in all branches of knowledge, adepts in learning, accomplished scholars, and competent to take their place in the king's palace; they were to be taught the literature and the language of the Chaldeans.
5 The king ordered them a daily share of the delicacies he ate and of the wine he drank. For three years they were to be trained, and at the end of that period they were to attend upon
6 the king. Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and
7 Azariah, from Judah. These were renamed by the governor of the eunuchs; he called Daniel Belteshazzar, Hananiah Shadrak, Mishael Meshak, and Azariah Abednego.
8 Daniel, however, did not intend to be contaminated with the king's food or with the wine he drank; so he asked the governor of the eunuchs that he might not contaminate himself. Now God
9 had made Daniel win favour and pity from the governor of the eunuchs. So the governor

of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "My lord the king has ordered your meat and drink, and I am afraid of him noticing that you are in poorer condition than the youths who are of your own age. You would make me risk my life with the king." But
11 Daniel said to his guardian, whom the governor of the eunuchs had put in charge of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, "Try your servants for
12 ten days, I pray you. Let us have vegetables to eat and water to drink, and then ex-
13 amine our condition and that of the youths who eat the king's fare: see how we stand, and treat your servants accordingly." So he agreed to this
14 request of theirs, and tried them for ten days. At the
15 end of ten days they did seem in better condition and stouter than all the youths who ate the king's fare. So the guardian
16 took away their meat and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

To these four youths God
17 granted knowledge and skill in all literature and science, and Daniel especially became an adept in all the lore of visions and dreams. So, at the end of
18 the period fixed by the king for their introduction, when the governor of the eunuchs brought them into the presence of Nebuchadnezzar, and the king con-
19 versed with them, he found none of them like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They became his personal attendants, and on every point of science
20 and knowledge about which the king put questions to them, he

found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in all his realm.

21 Daniel lived on into the first year of king Cyrus.

2 Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams that disturbed his mind, till

3 sleep forsook him. So he had the magicians and the enchanters and the sorcerers and the diviners summoned to tell the king what he had dreamed. In they came and stood before the

4 king. "I have had a dream," said the king to them, "and my mind is disturbed with desire to

5 know the dream." Then the diviners said to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live for ever! Tell your servants the dream,

6 and we will interpret it." But the king replied to the diviners, "What I say, I mean: if you do not tell me the dream and what it means, you shall be torn limb from limb and your houses shall

7 be made a dunghill. But if you tell me what the dream was and what it means, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and high honour. So tell me what the dream was and what it

8 means." Again they said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will interpret it."

9 "I see quite plainly that you want to gain time," said the king, "because you see I mean what I say—that if you cannot tell me the dream, there is one doom for you. And you have connived to talk falsely and foully to me, till things take a turn. Tell me the dream, and then I shall know you can

10 tell me what it means." The diviners answered the king, "There is not a man on earth who could tell what the king

demands; no monarch, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or diviner. The king is asking a hard thing,

11 which none can tell him except the gods who dwell not with mortal men." This made the

12 king angry and most furious; he gave orders to have all the sages of Babylon slaughtered. The edict was issued, and the

13 sages were to be killed. But when the patrol came for Daniel and his companions, to kill

14 them, Daniel spoke with sense and tact to Arfoch the captain of the king's executioners, who had come to kill the sages of

15 Babylon. He said to Arfoch the king's captain, "Why is the king's edict so ruthless?" Arfoch

16 told Daniel; and Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, till he could tell what the

17 dream meant. Then Daniel went home and told his companions Hananiah, Mishael, and

18 Azariah; they were to ask the God of heaven to be merciful in the matter of this mystery, that Daniel and his companions

19 might not perish with the other sages of Babylon. In a vision by night the mystery was revealed to Daniel. And Daniel blessed

20 the God of heaven. Daniel said: "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever,

21 for his are wisdom and might: he changes epochs and eras, he removes kings and he sets up kings;

22 to the wise he gives wisdom, and intelligence to the intelligent, he reveals what is deep and mysterious, he knows what is in the darkness,

and with him dwells the light.
 23 God of my fathers, thee I thank
 and praise,
 who hast given me wisdom and
 might,
 who hast told me what we asked
 from thee:
 for thou hast told us the king's
 trouble."

24 So Daniel went to Arioch whom
 the king had ordered to slaughter
 the sages of Babylon, and
 said to him, "Do not slaughter
 the sages of Babylon; take me
 into the presence of the king,
 and I will tell the king what
 25 the dream means." So Arioch
 hurried with Daniel into the
 presence of the king and said
 to him, "I have found a man
 belonging to the exiles from
 Judah, who can tell the king
 26 what the dream means." And
 the king said to Daniel, whose
 name was Belteshazzar, "Can
 you tell me the dream I saw
 and tell me what it means?"
 27 Daniel answered the king, "No
 sages, enchanters, magicians, or
 astrologers, can tell the king
 the mystery which the king has
 28 asked; but there is a God in
 heaven who reveals mysteries,
 and he discloses to king Nebu-
 chadnezzar what is to happen
 in the latter days. Your dream
 and the visions of your brain in
 29 bed are these: As you lay in
 bed, O king, you were thinking
 of the future, and he who re-
 veals mysteries has disclosed to
 30 you what is to happen. For
 myself, I have not had this mys-
 tery revealed to me on account
 of any wisdom I possess more
 than the rest of men, but sim-
 ply in order that the meaning
 of the dream may be told to
 the king, and that you may
 understand what your thoughts

meant. You looked, O king, 31
 and there stood a mighty image!
 This image, huge and gleaming,
 stood before you, terrible to be-
 hold. The head of this image 32
 was made of fine gold, its breast
 and arms of silver, its belly and
 thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, 33
 its feet partly iron and partly
 clay. You looked at it till you 34
 saw a stone being hewn out by
 no human hands, which struck
 the image on its feet, part iron
 and part clay, breaking them to
 bits; and then the iron, the 35
 clay, the bronze, the silver, and
 the gold, were all broken to
 bits, and whirled away by the
 wind, like chaff blown from the
 threshing-floors in summer, till
 they could not be found. The
 stone that struck the image be-
 came a great mountain, filling
 all the earth. Such was the 36
 dream. Now we will tell the
 king what it means. You, O 37
 king, are king of kings, to whom
 the God of heaven has given all
 dominion, power, strength, and
 glory; and, wherever the sons of 38
 men dwell, he has put the wild
 animals and the birds of the air
 into your power, and made you
 rule over them all: you are the
 golden head. After you another 39
 kingdom shall arise, less power-
 ful; then a third kingdom of
 bronze, which shall bear sway
 over all the earth. The fourth 40
 kingdom shall be strong as
 iron; for, as iron breaks every-
 thing to bits and beats it down,
 so shall it break and crush, like
 the iron that crushes all else.
 It shall be a divided kingdom— 41
 for you saw the feet and toes
 were partly potter's clay and
 partly iron. But the firmness
 of iron shall be in it—for you
 saw there was iron mixed with
 the muddy clay. Also, as the 42

- toes on the feet were partly iron, partly clay, so part of the kingdom shall be strong, part brittle. You saw the iron mixed with muddy clay? That means they shall intermarry in that kingdom, but they shall not hold together, any more than iron blends with clay; and in the days of these kings the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom never to be swept away, with a sovereignty that shall never pass to others; it shall break all these kingdoms to bits and make an end of them, but it shall stand for ever, as you saw how the stone was hewn from the mountains by no human hands and how it broke to bits the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has told the king what is to happen in the future: the dream is certain, and its meaning sure."
- Then king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and bowed down to Daniel and ordered sacrifice and incense to be offered to him.
- "Truly," said the king to Daniel, "your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery." Then the king gave Daniel high promotion, and many handsome presents; he made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and prefect over all the sages of Babylon. At the request of Daniel, the king also put Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego in charge of the business of the province of Babylon; Daniel himself remained at court, in the king's Gate.
- King Nebuchadnezzar once made a golden image, ninety feet high and nine feet broad, which he erected on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. Then king Nebuchadnezzar sent and summoned the satraps, the prefects, the governors, the councillors, the judges, the treasurers, the authorities, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which king Nebuchadnezzar had erected. And when the satraps, the prefects, the governors, the councillors, the judges, the treasurers, the authorities, and all the officials of the provinces, had gathered to the dedication of the image which king Nebuchadnezzar had erected, standing in front of the image which Nebuchadnezzar had erected, the herald shouted, "O races, nations, folk of every tongue, your orders are, whenever you hear all the music of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the harp, the lute, and the bagpipes, you must fall down and bow before the golden image which king Nebuchadnezzar has erected: anyone who does not fall down, and bow shall instantly be flung into a burning furnace." So, whenever the people heard the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the harp, the lute, and all the rest of the music, all races, nations, and folk of every tongue, fell down and bowed before the golden image which king Nebuchadnezzar had erected. Whereupon some diviners came forward with a malicious accusation against the Jews. They said to king Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live for ever! You have decreed, O king, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the harp, the lute, the bagpipes, and all the rest of the music, must fall down and

- bow before the golden image,
 11 and that anyone who does not fall down and bow shall be flung into a burning furnace.
 12 Now there are some Jews whom you have put in charge of the business of the province of Babylon, Shadrak, Meshak, Abednēgo; these men have paid no heed to you, O king; they do not serve your gods, and they do not bow before the golden image
 13 which you have erected." Then in rage and fury Nebuchadnezzar ordered Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednēgo to be brought. And when they were
 14 brought before the king, Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is this true, Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednēgo? Do you not serve my god? do you not bow before the golden image which
 15 I have erected? If you are ready, whenever you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the harp, the lute, the bagpipes, and all the rest of the music, ready to fall down and bow before the image I have made, well and good; but if you will not bow down, you shall instantly be flung into a burning furnace. And where is the god
 16 who can save you from my power?" Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednēgo answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we need not say a word in answer
 17 to that question. There is a God able to save us, the God whom we serve, able to save us from the burning furnace and
 18 from your power, O king. But even if he does not, understand this, O king, we will not serve your gods, and we will not bow down before the golden image
 19 which you have erected." At this Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, his face was distorted
 with rage, against Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednēgo; he gave orders that the furnace should be heated seven times as hot as usual, and ordered some powerful soldiers to bind Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednēgo, and fling them into the burning furnace. They were bound in their
 21 mantles, their trousers, their turbans, and their other clothes, and flung into the burning furnace; indeed, so urgent were the king's orders and so hot was the furnace, that the flames killed the men who lifted Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednēgo. But
 23 Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednēgo, the three of them, dropped bound into the middle of the burning furnace. Then
 24 king Nebuchadnezzar became alarmed. He started up hurriedly and asked his ministers of state, "Was it not three men that we flung bound into the middle of the fire?" They answered the king, "That is so, O king." And
 25 he replied, "But I see four men quite free, walking in the middle of the fire, unscathed! The appearance of the fourth is like an angel!" So Nebuchadnezzar
 26 went towards the door of the burning furnace, calling, "Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednēgo, you servants of the Most High God, come out, come here!" So Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednēgo came out of the fire; and
 27 when the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's ministers of state gathered round, they saw that the fire had had no effect upon their bodies, their hair had not been singed, their mantles had not been damaged, and there was no smell of burning about them. Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed
 28 be the God of Shadrak, Meshak,

and Abednego! He has sent his angel to save his servants who trusted in him, who frustrated the king's word and surrendered their bodies to avoid serving or bowing before any god except
 29 their own God. Hence I pass a decree that any race or nation or folk of any tongue which says a word against the God of Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses shall be made a dunghill; for there is no other
 30 god who is able to save in this way." Then the king promoted Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.
 4 "Nebuchadnezzar the king, to all races, nations, and folk of every tongue, who dwell in all the world: peace be multiplied
 2 to you. It is my royal pleasure to declare the signal acts of the Most High God in dealing with
 3 me. How great are his portents, how awful his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion lasts from age to age.
 4 I Nebuchadnezzar was at ease in my house and flourishing
 5 within my palace, when I saw a dream which made me fear; my fancies in bed and the visions of
 6 my brain alarmed me. So I issued an edict for all the sages of Babylon to be brought before me, that they might tell me the
 7 meaning of the dream. In came the magicians, the enchanters, the diviners, and the astrologers; but, when I told them the dream, they could not tell me
 8 the meaning of it, until at last another came in, Daniel whose name is Belteshazzar (after the name of my own god), a man in whom there is the spirit of the gods divine. I told him the
 9 dream, saying, 'O Belteshazzar,

master of the magicians, I know the spirit of the gods divine is in you, and no mystery is any trouble to you; tell me then the visions of my dream that I have seen, and what they mean.
 Such were the visions of my 10 brain in bed. I looked, and there was a tree in the middle of the earth, enormously high! The tree grew and grew strong, 11 till it was high as heaven and visible from the ends of all the earth; its leaves were lovely and 12 its fruit was rich, with food for all; wild animals sheltered under it, birds of the air roosted in its branches, and it fed all living creatures. In the visions of my 13 brain in bed I looked, and there was one of the angel-guard! He came down from heaven and called aloud, "Hew the tree 14 down, hack away its branches, lop off its leaves, and scatter its fruit: let the animals get away from underneath it, and the birds from its boughs. Still, 15 leave the stump of its roots in the earth, among the soft grass of the field, with a band of iron and bronze round it; let the dews of heaven drench it—and let him share the herbage of the earth with the animals, let his 16 mind cease to be human, let an animal's mind be given him, and let seven years pass over him. This sentence is decreed 17 by the angel-guard, the order is by authority of the angels: to let the living know that the Most High reigns over the realm of men, giving it to anyone whom he chooses, and setting over it the lowest of man-king." I, king Nebuchadnezzar, saw 18 this dream. Now, O Belteshazzar, tell me the meaning of it, since all the sages of my kingdom are unable to let me know

the meaning; but you are able, for the spirit of the gods divine
 19 is in you.' For a moment Daniel (whose name is Belteshazzar) was staggered; he was alarmed by what he foresaw. But the king said, 'Belteshazzar, let not the dream or its meaning alarm you.' Belteshazzar replied, 'My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you, and the meaning
 20 of it for your foes! The tree you saw, that grew and grew strong till it was high as heaven and
 21 visible to all the world, the tree whose leaves were lovely, and whose fruit was rich, with food for all, the tree under which the wild animals sheltered and in whose branches the birds
 22 roosted, O king, it is yourself! You have grown and grown strong, for your power has grown till it is high as heaven and your dominion stretches to
 23 the world's end. The king saw one of the angel-guard coming down from heaven and saying, "Hew the tree down and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, among the soft grass of the field, with a band of iron and bronze round it, let the dews of heaven drench it—and let him share the food of animals, till seven years pass
 24 over him"? Well, this is the meaning, O king. It is a decree of the Most High which befalls
 25 my lord the king: you shall be driven away from human beings to dwell with the wild animals, you shall be forced to eat grass like cattle, you shall be drenched with the dews of heaven, and seven years shall pass over you, till you learn that the Most High reigns over the realm of men and gives it to anyone
 26 whom he chooses. The order to spare the stump of the tree's

roots means that your kingdom shall be secured for you, after you have learned that it is the Heavens who reign. Therefore
 27 let my advice be acceptable to you, O king; make an end of your sins by practising justice and showing pity to the oppressed: perhaps your prosperity may be prolonged.'

All this befell king Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later
 28 he was walking on the roof of the royal palace in Babylon; the king was saying, 'There lies
 30 Babylon the great, which I have built for a royal residence by my vast power and to my noble majesty!' The words had not
 31 left his lips when a voice fell from heaven: 'O king Nebuchadnezzar, here is your sentence: your kingdom is taken from you! You shall be driven
 32 away from human beings to dwell with the wild animals, you shall be forced to eat grass like cattle, and seven years shall pass over you, till you learn that the Most High reigns over the realm of men, and gives it to any one whom he chooses.' The sentence was carried out in-
 33 stantly upon Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven away from human beings, he ate grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dews of heaven, till his hair grew as long as the feathers of an eagle and his nails grew like the claws of a bird. When the
 34 time was over, I Nebuchadnezzar lifted my eyes to heaven, my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, praising and honouring him who lives for ever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion and his kingdom lasts from age to age; before him the inhabitants
 35 of the earth are all reckoned as

of no account; he does as he pleases in the hosts of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can interfere with him or ask him what
 36 he is doing. My reason returned to me at the same moment, and, to the glory of my kingdom, I regained my majesty and splendour; my ministers of state and my lords came to consult me, I was firmly seated on my throne and invested with supreme
 37 power. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and exalt and honour the King of heaven, for all he does is right, his dealings are all just, and haughty men he is able to abase."

5 King Belshazzar gave a great banquet to a thousand of his
 2 lords. He was drinking his wine in front of the thousand of them, when, carried away by the wine, Belshazzar gave orders for the gold and silver vessels removed from the temple at Jerusalem by his father Nebuchadnezzar, to be brought in, so that the king and his lords, his consorts and his concubines, might drink out
 3 of them. The gold and silver vessels which had been removed from the temple of God's house at Jerusalem were then brought, and the king and his lords, his consorts and his concubines,
 4 drank out of them; they drank their wine and praised their gods of gold and silver, bronze,
 5 iron, wood, and stone. That very hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared, writing on the plaster of the royal palace, opposite the lampstand. The king saw the palm of the hand as it
 6 wrote, and the king's fresh colour paled, his thoughts alarmed him, the muscles of his thighs relaxed, and his knees struck one against another.

Then the king cried aloud for 7 the enchanters, the diviners, and the astrologers to be brought in. The king declared to the sages of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing and tells me the meaning of it shall be robed in purple and wear a golden chain round his neck and rank as third within the realm." But not one of all the king's 8 sages could read the writing or explain the meaning of it to the king. At this king Belshazzar 9 was greatly alarmed, his colour paled, and his lords were at their wits' end. Then, at the cries of 10 the king and his lords, the queen-mother came into the banqueting-hall; the queen-mother said, "O king, live for ever! Let not your thoughts alarm you, let not your colour go; within your 11 realm there is a man in whom is the spirit of the gods divine. In the days of your father light and learning and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods themselves were found in him, so that king Nebuchadnezzar your father himself made him master of the magicians, enchanters, 12 diviners, and astrologers, since rare ability, knowledge, learning, the power of interpreting dreams and solving riddles and reversing spells, were found in this very Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Let Daniel be called, and he will explain the meaning of this." Then Daniel was brought into 13 the king's presence. The king said to Daniel, "So you are the Daniel belonging to the exiles of Judah whom the king my father brought from Judah? I hear 14 that the spirit of the gods themselves is in you, and that light and learning and rare wisdom are to be found in you. Well 15

now, the sages, the enchanters, have been brought into my presence to read this writing and to let me hear the meaning of it, but they could not explain
 16 its meaning. However, I hear that you can explain things and reverse spells. Now, if you can read this writing and let me hear the meaning of it, you shall wear a purple robe and a golden chain round your neck, and you shall rank third within the
 17 realm." Then Daniel made answer to the king: "Keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else! However, I will read the writing to the king and let him hear the meaning of it. O king, the Most
 18 High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father the realm with its greatness and glory and majesty, and owing to the greatness
 19 he bestowed upon him, all races, nations, and folk of every tongue trembled in fear of him, for he killed whom he pleased and spared whom he pleased, he raised whom he pleased and he
 20 put down whom he pleased. But when his mind became proud, when his spirit became defiant, so that he bore himself haughtily, he was deposed from his royal throne and deprived of his glory;
 21 he was driven away from human beings, his mind was made like the mind of an animal, and his dwelling was with the beasts; he ate grass like cattle and his body was drenched with the dews of heaven, till he learned that the Most High God rules over the realm of men and that he sets over it anyone whom he
 2 chooses. Yet you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all
 3 this; you uplifted yourself against the Lord of heaven, by

having the vessels of his house brought in before you, and from them you and your lords, your consorts and your concubines, have drunk wine, praising gods of silver and gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which can neither see nor hear nor understand; you have not glorified the God who holds in his own power your breath of life and all your destiny. Hence the palm
 24 of the hand was sent from his presence, and this writing was inscribed. This is the inscription:
 25

Mené, tekél, perés.

The meaning of it is: *Mené* 26 (numbered), God has numbered the days of your kingdom and ended it; *Tekél* (weighed), you 27 are weighed in the scales and found wanting; *Perés* (divided), 28 your kingdom is divided up and assigned to the Medes and the 'Persians.'" Then, by order of 29 Belshazzar, Daniel was robed in purple, a chain of gold was hung round his neck, and proclamation was made that he was to rank as third within the realm. That very night Belshazzar the 30 Chaldean king was killed, and 31 Darius the Mede received the kingdom, he being about sixty-two years of age.

It pleased Darius to set a 6 hundred and twenty satraps over the kingdom, who were to manage the whole of the kingdom, under three presidents, 2 one of whom was Daniel; the satraps were to report to them, and so the king was to suffer no loss. This Daniel distinguished 3 himself more than all the presidents and satraps, because he had rare ability; indeed, the king thought of setting him over the whole of the kingdom.

- 4 So the presidents and the satraps endeavoured to find some ground of complaint against Daniel in the matter of his public service, but they could find no ground of complaint or blame, for he was faithful, and no error or fault was to be found in him. So the men thought, "We shall never find any ground of complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connexion with the laws of his god."
- 6 Whereupon these presidents and satraps surged in before the king and said to him, "King Darius, live for ever! The presidents of the kingdom, the prefects, the satraps, the councilors, and the governors, have all agreed that the king should lay down a law, issuing a strict edict that no one shall offer a prayer to any god or man for thirty days except to yourself, O king, on pain of being flung into the den of lions. Lay down the edict, O king, and sign the paper, so that it may not be changed, as is the law of the Medes and the Persians which is unalterable." So king Darius signed the paper with the edict. When Daniel learned that it had been signed, he went home (where the windows in his room were open in the direction of Jerusalem) and continued to kneel down three times a day, praying and thanking his God, as he had done before.
- 11 These men then surged in and found Daniel offering prayers and supplications in presence of his God. So they went before the king and asked him about the royal edict. "Did you not sign an edict that any man who offered a prayer to any god or man for thirty days except to yourself, O king, should be flung into the den of lions?" "It is true," replied the king, "by the law of the Medes and the Persians, which is unalterable." Then they protested to the king, 13 "That man Daniel, who belongs to the exiles from Judah, never heeds either you, O king, or the edict you have signed; he is saying his prayers three times a day to his own god." When 14 the king heard this, he was deeply vexed; he determined to save Daniel, and till sundown he worked hard to preserve his life. But the men reminded the king that by the law of the Medes and the Persians no edict or law laid down by the king could be changed. So the king 16 gave his orders; Daniel was arrested and flung into the den of lions. "May your God save you, whom you worship continually!" said the king to Daniel. A boulder was brought and laid 17 upon the opening of the den, which the king sealed with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, to prevent any change of plan about Daniel. Then the king went to his palace; he spent the night fasting, he had no dancing girls brought to him, and sleep left him. As soon as day dawned, the king was up and away to the den of lions. When he came near the den and Daniel, he cried with a distressful voice; the king called out to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, is your God whom you worship continually able to save you from the lions?" Then said Daniel to 21 the king, "O king, live for ever! My God has sent his angel and 22 shut the mouths of the lions; they have not hurt me. For he found me innocent, nor have I done you any injury, O king."

- 23 The king was overjoyed, and ordered Daniel to be lifted out of the den. So Daniel was lifted out, and he was found to be uninjured, because he had
 24 trusted in his God. By order of the king, the men who had accused Daniel were then brought and flung into the den of lions, they and their children and their wives; before ever they reached the bottom of the den, the lions fell on them and crushed their bones to pieces.
 25 Then king Darius wrote to all nations, races, and folk of every tongue, who dwell in all the world: "Peace be multiplied to
 26 you! I pass a decree that in all the realm I rule men shall tremble in fear before the God of Daniel,

for he is the living God,
 for ever he endures,
 his kingdom never shall be over-
 thrown,

- and his dominion has no end:
 27 he saves and rescues,
 he does signal acts in heaven
 and earth:
 and he has rescued Daniel
 from the power of lions."

- 28 So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and during the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

- 7 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his brain as he lay in bed. Whereupon he wrote down the dream, describing all that he had seen.
 2 "I saw in my vision during the night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great ocean.
 3 And out of the ocean up rose four huge Beasts, all of them
 4 different. The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of a

vulture; I watched till I saw the wings pulled off and the Beast forced to rise and stand erect upon the earth, on two feet like a man; also, a human mind was given to it. Then came a sec- 5
 ond Beast, like a bear, with one of its paws raised to strike, and three ribs gripped between its fangs; it was told to go and devour much flesh. After that 6
 I looked, and there was another Beast, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird upon its sides, and with four heads: to it dominion was assigned! After 7
 that I saw in my vision by night a fourth Beast, dire and dreadful, mightily strong, with huge iron fangs; it devoured and tore its victims to pieces, stamping the rest down with its feet; it was different from all the Beasts that had gone before it. It had ten horns, and as I watched the 8
 horns, up rose another horn among them, a small horn, which uprooted three of the earlier horns; this horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth full of proud words. I 9
 watched until an Assize was held, when a primeval Being sat on the throne of justice, with robes white as snow, the hair of his head pure white like wool; his throne was a blaze of flames and its wheels were burning fire, a stream of fire 10
 poured from his presence; millions of angels were at his service and myriads attended him. The court was held and the records were opened. Then I 11
 watched until the Beast was killed and his body destroyed; he was handed over to be burned up, for the proud words uttered by the horn. As for the rest of 12
 the Beasts, they were deprived of their dominion, but their

lives were spared for a certain
 13 period. Then in my vision by
 night I saw a figure in human
 form coming with the clouds of
 heaven, coming up to the primæval
 14 Being, before whom he was
 brought and from whom he received

dominion, glory, and a kingdom,
 that all nations, races, and folk
 of every tongue, should
 serve him;

his dominion is a lasting dominion,
 never to pass away,
 and his kingdom never shall be
 overthrown.

15 As for me, Daniel, my spirit
 within me was distressed by
 this; the visions of my brain
 16 alarmed me. So I approached
 one of the angels standing beside
 me and asked him what was the
 truth about all this. He told
 me and let me know the meaning
 17 of it all. These huge Beasts,
 he said, these four, are four
 kingdoms which shall rise from
 18 the earth, but the saints of the
 Most High shall receive their
 kingdom from him and hold the
 kingdom for ever, for all time.
 19 Then I desired to know the
 truth about the fourth Beast,
 so different from all the rest, so
 dire, with its iron fangs and
 talons of bronze, the Beast that
 devoured and tore its victims to
 20 pieces, stamping the rest down
 with its feet. I also desired to
 know about the ten horns on its
 head and the other horn which
 rose and defeated three of the
 horns, the horn that had eyes
 and a mouth full of proud words,
 the horn that seemed stronger
 21 than its fellows, the horn which
 I saw making war upon the
 saints and overcoming them
 22 till the primæval Being arrived

and the Assize was held and
 dominion given to the saints
 of the Most High, till the time
 came when the saints held the
 kingdom. I was told this, that 23
 the fourth Beast was to be a
 fourth kingdom on earth, different
 from all other kingdoms,
 devouring the whole earth,
 crushing and shattering it. 24
 for the ten horns, ten kings
 shall rise out of this kingdom,
 and after them another king
 shall rise, different from them,
 and put down three kings; he 25
 shall vaunt himself against the
 Most High and harass the
 saints of the Most High; he shall
 plan to alter the sacred seasons
 and the law, and for three years
 and half a year the saints shall
 be handed over to him. Then 26
 the court of Justice shall sit and
 his dominion shall be taken
 away, to be destroyed and
 ended for all time; the kingdom 27
 and dominion and the might of
 all kingdoms under heaven
 shall be given to the saints of the
 Most High, a people whose kingdom
 is a lasting kingdom, to be
 served and obeyed by all dominions.
 This is the end. As for 28
 me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly
 alarmed me; I lost my colour,
 but I kept everything in mind."

In the third year of the reign 8
 of king Belshazzar a vision
 appeared to me, Daniel, following
 the former vision. What 2
 I saw in the vision was this. I
 was in the citadel of Susa in the
 province of Elam, and in my
 vision I saw myself beside the
 river Ulai. When I looked up, 3
 there in front of the river stood
 a ram with two horns, two high
 horns, but one of them was
 higher than the other, and the
 higher came up last! I saw the 4
 ram butting westward, north-

ward, and southward; no animal could hold its own against him, and none could be rescued from him; he did as he pleased, and he magnified himself. As I was brooding over this, a he-goat from the west pushed over the whole world, scouring the earth swiftly without touching it. The goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. When he reached the ram with the two horns, which I saw standing in front of the river, the goat ran at him in the fury of his might; I saw him reach the ram and then, in a fit of mad rage, he charged the ram and broke his two horns; the ram had not the power to oppose him but was flung to the ground and trampled down, with none to rescue him. Then the he-goat magnified himself mightily. But, at the height of his power, his large horn was broken, and in its place four other horns emerged, pointing to the four winds of heaven. From one of these emerged a small horn which grew to a great size in the direction of the south, the east, and the fair land of Palestine. It swelled high as the starry host; indeed, it flung some of the stars on high down to the ground and trampled on them. It even magnified itself to match the Prince of the starry host, and deprived him of the daily sacrifice, demolishing the place of his sanctuary. Thus was the daily sacrifice profanely treated, the true religion was beaten down, and the horn prospered in its career. Then I overheard an angel speaking, and another angel said to the speaker, "How long is this to last, this that we see, the daily sacrifice stopped, the appalling

sacrilege, the trampling down of the sanctuary and the starry host?" The answer was, "For two thousand three hundred evenings and mornings; then shall the sanctuary be restored." Now when I Daniel saw the vision, I tried to understand it. Suddenly a human-like figure appeared in front of me, and I heard a human voice over the water of the Ulai calling to it, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." So he came forward to where I was standing; as he came near I was terrified and dropped on my face. He said to me, "Understand the vision, O son of man, for it relates to the crisis at the close." I fell into a dead faint, with my face upon the ground, as he spoke to me; but he touched me and set me erect, saying to me, "Come, I will let you know what is to happen during the closing days of the wrath divine, for the vision relates to the crisis at the close. The horns of the ram you saw are the kingdoms of Media and Persia: the he-goat is the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king of Greece. As for the four horns which rose in place of the broken horn, four kingdoms shall rise out of the Greek nation, but with less power. In the later period of their power, when guilt is at the full, there shall arise a king who is defiant, a master of craft (by no force of arms shall he gain his great power); he shall make monstrous claims and prosper in his policy, destroying his powerful foes. His designs shall be directed against the sacred people, and he shall ply his intrigues successfully; he shall plot proud

plans and ruin many when they are off their guard: he shall even challenge the Prince of the angel-princes, but by a stroke from no human hand shall he be
 26 shattered. The vision of the evenings and the mornings which has been told is true. But keep the vision a secret, for it
 27 relates to the far future." At this I Daniel was for some days ill; after which I rose and went about the king's business. I was appalled at the vision; I did not understand it.

9 In the first year of Darius the son of Xerxes, belonging to the Median race, who had been made king over the Chaldean
 2 realm, in the first year of his reign, I Daniel noticed in the scriptures the number of the years which, the Eternal had predicted to the prophet Jeremiah, would pass before Jerusalem ceased to lie desolate; the
 3 number was seventy. So I sought the Lord God, applying myself to prayer and entreaty with fasting, sackcloth, and
 4 ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God, I made confession thus: "Ah now, O Lord, the great and awful God, who keepest thy compact of kindness with those who love thee and keep thy com-
 5 mands, we have sinned, we have done evil, swerving from thine injunctions and regulations, like
 6 wicked rebels, and never listening to thy servants the prophets who spoke in thy name to our kings, our nobles, our fathers, and all the common
 7 people. O Lord, goodness is thine but shame falls to us, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the citizens of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, near and far away, in all the countries where thou hast driven them,

for their treachery to thyself. Shame falls to us, O Lord, to 8 our kings, our nobles, and our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. To the Lord our 9 God it falls to have mercy and to forgive, for we have been rebels, we have not obeyed the 10 call of the Eternal our God to follow the directions which he set before us by his servants the prophets. All Israel has indeed 11 broken thy law, swerving from it and disobeying thy call; hence the curse has been vented on us which was solemnly threatened in the law of Moses the servant of God. For we have sinned 12 against him, and he has carried out his threats against us and our authorities by bringing a great disaster upon us (for never in all the world has there been punishment like that of Jerusalem). All this disaster has be- 13 fallen us, as it was written in the law of Moses, and yet we have never besought the Eternal our God, so as to turn from our iniquities and order our lives wisely by thy true religion. Therefore the Eternal has been 14 alert to bring this disaster upon us, for the Eternal our God is just in all his dealings, and we would not obey his call. O Lord 15 our God, who didst bring thy people out of the land of Egypt by main force, gaining a renown that still endures, we have sinned, we have done evilly. O 16 Lord, by all thy saving deeds, pray let thine anger and thy fury turn from Jerusalem thy city, from thy sacred hill, for our sins and the iniquities of our fathers have made Jerusalem and thy people a derision to all 17 around us. Ah listen, O our God, to the prayer and supplication of thy servant, and may

thy favour smile again upon thy desolate sanctuary for thy servant's sake, O Lord! Bend thine ear and listen, O my God; open thine eyes to the sight of our desolation and the city that belongs to thyself. For we do not offer our supplications before thee, relying on our own goodness but on thy great compassion. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, listen and take action, without delay, for thine own sake, O Lord, because thy city and thy people belong to thyself." While I was saying my prayer, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Eternal my God for the sacred hill of my God, while I was uttering my prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the former vision, sped swiftly to me about the hour of the evening sacrifice; he came and talked to me, saying, "O Daniel, I now come to give you insight. When you began your supplications this divine oracle was granted, which I now come to impart to you, for you are a man greatly loved by God; so ponder the oracle and understand the vision. 'Seventy weeks of years are fixed for your people and for your sacred city, to end guilt, to complete sins, to expiate iniquity, to bring in everlasting purity, to ratify the prophetic vision, and to consecrate a most sacred Place. Know then, understand, that between the issue of the prophetic command to repeople and rebuild Jerusalem and the consecrating of a supreme high priest, seven weeks of years shall elapse; in the course of sixty-two weeks of years it shall be rebuilt, with its squares and

streets; finally, after the sixty-two weeks of years, the consecrated priest shall be cut off, leaving no successor; the city and the sanctuary shall be destroyed along with the consecrated priest, and then ruin shall pour in with a flood of warfare to the very end. For a week of years the main body of the people shall cease to practise their religion; for half of that time sacrifice and offering shall cease, and instead of this there shall be an appalling abomination, till finally the appointed doom falls upon the sacrilegious abomination."

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a revelation was made to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, a true revelation of a great conflict; he paid heed to the revelation and understood the vision. At that time I Daniel was mourning for three full weeks; I ate no delicacies, I never tasted flesh or wine, and I never anointed myself, till three full weeks were over. Then, on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, when I was on the banks of the great river (that is, the Tigris), I raised my eyes, and as I looked there I saw a man standing, robed in linen, with a girdle of fine gold from Ophir round his waist, his body gleaming like a topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like lamps of fire, his arms and legs like the colour of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the noise of a crowd! I Daniel alone saw the vision, for the men beside me did not see it; shuddering had seized them, and they ran to hide themselves. So I was left alone to see the great vision. No strength was left in me,

paleness ruined my fresh colour;
 9 I heard the sound of what he was saying, but when I heard his voice I fell down into a dead faint, my face upon the ground.
 10 Then a hand touched me and set me on my knees and hands
 11 all shaking. He said to me, "O Daniel, a man greatly loved by God, stand erect and understand the message I now bring to you, for I have been sent to you at last." When he said
 12 this, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for ever since you applied yourself to brooding on the future and to fasting humbly before your God, your prayers have been heard, and for the sake of
 13 your prayers I am here. (The guardian angel of the realm of Persia thwarted me for twenty-one days, but Michael one of the archangels came to my aid, and I have left him to deal single-handed with the guardian angel
 14 of the Persian kings.) Now I am here to let you know what is to befall your people at the end of the ages; for the vision relates
 15 to the far future." When he spoke to me in this way I bent my face to the earth and remained dumb; but one who resembled a mortal man touched my lips, and then I opened my mouth and said to him who stood in front of me, "O my lord, the vision makes a pang seize me, and I am powerless;
 17 for how can so poor a servant of my lord talk with my lord so great?" (I was shaking; no strength remained in me, I
 18 could not breathe.) Then one in the likeness of a man again touched me and strengthened
 19 me, saying, "O man greatly loved by God, fear not; all good be yours; be strong, be brave."

At his words I gained strength and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." Then he asked, "Do you know 20 why I have come to you? Soon I must return to confront the guardian angel of Persia, and, when I am done with that contest, the guardian angel of Greece shall attack me; my only ally against them is Michael, your own guardian angel, who 21 stands up to support me and defend me. However, I will 2 now show you the true predictions in God's book. Three more kings shall arise in Persia, then a fourth far more rich than them all; when he has grown powerful through his wealth he shall rouse all the realms of Greece to conflict. But a war- 3 rior of a monarch shall arise, ruling in mighty power, and doing as he pleases; when he 4 comes to power, his kingdom shall be shattered and scattered to the four winds of heaven; it shall not pass to his posterity, nor shall it be as powerful as it was in his hands, for his kingdom shall be torn up and divided among more than his four generals. Strong shall be the king 5 of the South, but one of his captains shall be stronger still. After some years they shall join 6 forces; the daughter of the king of the South shall be married to the king of the North, to settle their dispute, but this will prove no strength; neither her husband nor his children shall be left alive—she and her suite and her son and her husband shall be surrendered. But then 7 shall arise a scion of her own family, in succession to his father, who shall head an army to enter the fortress of the king of the North; he shall take ac-

- tion and master the men of the
 8 North, carrying off their gods, metal images, and rare vessels of silver and gold, to Egypt. For some years he shall cease attacking the king of the North.
 9 The king of the North shall then invade the realm of the king of the South, but he shall
 10 retreat to his own country; his sons shall then make war, gathering a vast army for the attack, and one of them shall surge forward to the south, pushing the attack as far as the
 11 fortress of Gaza. In a fit of mad rage the king of the South shall march out to fight the king of the North, who shall raise a large army, but it shall fall into the hands of his foe
 12 and be taken prisoner, to the proud joy of the king of the South, who shall rout tens of thousands of them. However,
 13 he shall not hold his own; the king of the North shall again raise an army larger than before, and finally, after some years, renew the attack with a large host and vast resources.
 14 At that time many shall rise against the king of the South, and some wild spirits among your own nation shall start up to fulfil the prediction of the
 15 vision—only to be routed. The king of the North shall come and throw up siege-works and capture some strongly fortified towns; the Southern power shall be powerless to resist, their
 16 picked troops shall make no stand; the Northern invader shall do as he pleases, with none to oppose him; he shall occupy the fair land of Palestine, holding it all in his hand, and then
 17 plan to advance against Egypt with the entire strength of his army. But he must come to terms, and attempt to master Egypt by marrying the princess of Egypt. The plan will fail, and he shall not succeed. Thereafter he shall turn to the
 18 coast-lands of the West and capture many of them, but a certain Roman general shall put a stop to his defiant insults and pay him back for them. He
 19 shall then retire to the fortresses of his own land, only to meet trouble and to disappear. In
 20 place of him one shall arise who by raising tribute shall ruin the glory of the realm, but very soon he shall be broken, though by no open blow nor in battle. In
 21 place of him a despicable creature shall arise, one on whom the royal honour is not conferred but who comes when men are off their guard and gains the kingdom by means of crafty
 22 promises; the opposing forces shall be swept before him and shattered, and so shall God's
 23 high-priest. As soon as anyone becomes his ally, he starts to outwit him, for he rises to power by aid only of a small party; when men are off their guard,
 24 he attacks the leaders in each province. He shall do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers ever did, he shall scatter prey, plunder, and property, among his followers, and even make plans for a time
 25 against the fortresses of Egypt, daring to match himself against the king of the South with a large army; the king of the South shall fight with a vast and powerful host, but he shall fail, for treacherous plans shall be
 26 laid against him, indeed his own courtiers shall prove the ruin of him, and his host shall be swept away, many of them dropping dead. Each of the two 27

- kings shall be bent on mischief, telling lies, for all their close alliance, but their alliance shall not prosper, for the end can only come at the time appointed. He shall then return to his own country with rich plunder, and turning against the sacred nation he shall do as he pleases there, and then go back to his own land. At the time appointed he shall again invade the South, but he shall not fare as he did before, for Romans shall confront him and cow him, till he retires; then in a fury he shall do as he pleases with the sacred nation, keeping in touch with the apostates from the sacred nation; armed forces shall be set on foot by him, the temple fortress shall be desecrated, the daily sacrifice shall be abolished, and an appalling abomination erected; by means of specious promises he shall pervert those who bring guilt upon the nation. But those who know their God shall be steadfast and take action; these pious loyalists will be a lesson to the masses; but for many a day they shall be cut down or burned or carried captive or plundered. As they are being overborne, they shall receive a little help, though many join them under false pretences. Some of the pious, however, shall remain pious, so as to be refined, purified, and made white, till the crisis at the close (for the appointed hour is still to come). The king shall do as he pleases, he shall uplift himself and exalt himself over every god, uttering amazing vaunts against the God of gods; he shall prosper till the wrath divine has run its course (for what has been decreed must be fulfilled). He shall not heed the gods of his fathers or Tam-muz or any other god, for he shall exalt himself above all gods; but his majesty shall honour the god of fortresses and another god (whom his fathers never knew) with gold and silver and jewels and costly gifts. For his strong forts he shall procure soldiers who worship a foreign god; his favourites he shall advance to high honour and make them rulers over the masses, selling land to them for a bribe. When the end arrives, the king of the South shall butt at him, but the king of the North shall attack him like a whirlwind, with chariots and cavalry and a large fleet, invading his lands and flooding into them. He shall also invade the fair land of Palestine, and myriads shall be killed. But these nations shall be saved from him, the Edomites, the Moabites, and the main part of the Ammonites. As he exerts his force against the various lands, the land of Egypt shall not escape, but he shall lay hands on the treasures of gold and silver and all the valuables in Egypt, the Libyans and the Ethiopians following in his train. Then rumours from the east and the north shall alarm him, till he retires in great fury to inflict doom and destruction on many, pitching his royal pavilions between the Mediterranean and the sacred hill so fair. So shall he come to his end, with none to help him. Then Michael rise, the archangel who defends your people, and there shall be a time of trouble such as never has been since there was a nation; but everyone of your people who is enrolled in the

book of life shall be delivered,
 2 and many who sleep in the
 dust of death shall awake, some
 to life for evermore and some
 to be rejected and abhorred for
 3 evermore. The pious loyalists
 shall shine bright as the sky
 above, and those who have led
 many to the true religion shall
 shine like the stars for ever-
 4 more. And now, O Daniel, keep
 all this a close secret and keep
 the book shut as a secret, till
 the crisis at the end; ere
 then many shall give way and
 trouble shall be multiplied on
 earth."

5 Then, as I Daniel looked, two
 other figures stood, one on this
 bank of the river and one on the
 6 other bank. One of them said
 to the man robed in linen, who
 was above the water of the
 river, "How long shall it be till
 7 these marvels happen?" And
 I heard the man robed in linen,
 who was above the water of the
 river, swear by him who lives
 for ever (raising his right hand
 and his left hand to heaven),

that it would be three years and
 half a year, and that when the
 power of him who shattered the
 sacred people should be over,
 then the end of all should arrive.
 I heard this, but I did not under- 8
 stand it. So I asked, "O my
 lord, what is to be the last phase
 before the end?" But he said, 9
 "Ask no more, Daniel, for the
 revelation is to be kept secret
 and close till the crisis at the
 close. Many shall purify them- 10
 selves and make themselves
 white and be refined, but the
 evil shall do evilly; none of the
 evil shall understand things, it
 is the pious who understand.
 [[Twelve hundred and ninety 11
 days shall pass, after the daily
 offering has been stopped and
 the appalling abomination has
 been set up.]] [[Blessed is he 12
 who waits till he reaches the
 thirteen hundred and thirty-
 five days.]] Go and wait for 13
 the end; you shall rest in the
 grave and then rise to enjoy
 your share at the end of the
 days."

HOSEA

- 1 The message of the Eternal
that came to Hosea the son of
Beëri during the reigns of Uzziah,
Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah,
kings of Judah, and during the
reign of Jeroboam son of Joash,
king of Israel.
- 2 Here begin the words of the
Eternal to Hosea. The Eternal
said to Hosea, "Go and marry a
harlot of a woman and have
children of a harlot—for the
land has played the harlot for
forsaking the Eternal." So he
went and took Gomer the
daughter of Diblaim, who con-
ceived and bore him a son.
- 4 "Call him Jezreël," said the
Eternal, "for it will not be long
before I avenge the blood of
Jezreël upon the house of Jehu
and put an end to the kingdom
of Israel. On that day I will
break the power of Israel in the
valley of Jezreël." Then she
conceived again and bore a
daughter; and Hosea was told
to call her "Nomeray, for no
mercy more will I have on the
house of Israel, no forgiveness
for them at all." When she
weaned Nomeray, she conceived
again and bore a son; and Hosea
was told to call him "Nofolk,
for you are no folk of mine, and
I—I am not your God."
- 2 Argue it, argue it with your
mother
- 2 (for she is no wife of mine,
and I am not her husband),
bid her clear her face of harlotry,
and her breasts of adulterous
charms;
- 3 or I will strip her naked,
bare as the day she was born;
I will make her like a land for-
lorn,
- and leave her like a desert dry,
and of sheer thirst leave her to
die.
- On her children I will have no
mercy,
for they are born out of wedlock;
their mother has played the
harlot,
she who conceived them has
been shameless;
she said, "I will follow my
lovers,
who give me my bread and
water,
my wool, flax, oil, and wine."
Little she knew it was I who
had given her
the grain and oil and wine,
who had heaped on her silver
and gold
[[they devoted it to Baal]].
So now I recall my grain in its
season,
my wine in its month;
I reclaim my wool and my flax,
that went to cover her naked-
ness;
and I leave her all bare
to the eyes of her lovers
(none shall save her from my
hand).
- I will lay waste her vine and fig-
trees,
that she calls, "My own,
what my lovers paid for me";
into brushwood will I turn them,
and the wild beasts shall devour
them.
- I will bring all her gaiety to an
end,
her festivals, new-moons, and
sabbaths,
to punish her for all the days
when to the Baals she offered
incense,
decking herself with rings and
jewels,
running after her lovers,

- and forgetting me, says the Eternal.
- 6 Now then I will block up her path
with a thorn-hedge,
and bar the road against her,
till she cannot find her way;
- 7 she will pursue her lovers and miss them,
seek them and never find them.
Then at last she will say,
"Let me go back to my first husband,
I fared better with him than to-day."
- 14 So I will allure her,
put her alone and apart,
and speak to her heart;
- 15 then I will restore her the vineyards,
and make the dale of Trouble a door of hope;
then shall she answer me
as in her youthful days,
when she came up from Egypt's land;
- 17 for I will take the name of Baals out of her lips, and then they shall never be mentioned again.
- 16 On that day, the Eternal declares, she shall call me, "My husband," no more "My Baal";
- 19 I will betroth her to me for ever,
betroth her in a bond of goodness and of justice,
in kindness and in love;
- 20 yes, loyally will I betroth her,
to let her understand the Eternal.
- 18 On that day I will make a league for them
with the wild beasts and birds
and creeping things of earth;
and I will wipe out of their land bow, sword, and all munitions,
to let them lie down in security.
- On that day, the Eternal declares,
I will answer the heavens,
the heavens shall answer the earth,
the earth shall answer the grain,
the new wine and the oil,
and they shall answer Jezreël;
I will re-people Jezreël in the land,
I will have mercy on Nomeracy,
to Norfolk I will say, "My folk,"
and they shall say, "Thou art my God."
- On Judah too I will have mercy,
and rescue them as their God
the Eternal,
not by bow or sword or by munitions,
not by horses or by cavalry.
- The number of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea,
that cannot be measured or counted;
once it was said, "You are no folk of mine,"
but now their name is "Sons of the living God."
- Then shall the Judahites and the Israelites be gathered into one,
and they shall choose a single chief for themselves, and spread out far beyond their land; for the day of Jezreël shall be a great day.
Call your brother "My folk,"
and your sister "Mercy!"
The Eternal said to me, "Go again and love an adulterous woman, in love with a paramour, as the Eternal loves the Israelites, although they turn to other gods and love their idolatrous raisin-cakes." So I bought her for fifteen florins and eighteen bushels of barley, and I told her, "For many a day you must remain mine, you must not play the harlot, you

must have nothing to do with
a man—and I will have nothing
4 to do with you.” For the Israel-
ites shall remain for many a day
without king or chief, without
sacrifice or sacred stone, without
5 ephod or oracle; after that, the
Israelites shall turn to seek the
Eternal their God once more,
and their Davidic king, and at
the end come eagerly to the
Eternal and his goodness.

4 Israel, hear the word of the
Eternal, for the Eternal has a
charge to bring against the
dwellers in the land:

No fidelity, no kindness,
no knowledge of God in the
land,

2 nothing but perjury, lying, and
murder,
stealing, debauchery, bur-
glary—
bloodshed upon bloodshed!

3 Hence the land is woebegone,
its denizens all droop;
even the beasts and birds
and the very fish within the sea
are perishing.

4 But none protests, no man com-
plains,
for my people are no better than
their priestlings.

5 You priests! You shall stumble
by broad daylight;
your day will I turn into night.

6 My people are dying for want of
knowledge,
and you reject my knowledge;
so I reject you from my priest-
hood.

Since you ignore the instructions
of your God,
I will ignore your children.

7 The more they multiply the
more they sin,
they change my glory for a
shameful worship;

they batten on my people's sins, 8
they have an appetite for
human guilt.

But priests shall fare like people, 9
I punish them for their doings
and requite them for their
deeds;

they shall eat and never be satis- 10
fied,

commit adultery and get no
children,
since they have ceased to heed
the Eternal.

My people ask a piece of wood 12
to guide them,

a pole gives them their oracles!
For a harlot-spirit has led them
astray,

they have left their God for a
faithless way;

they sacrifice on mountain 13
heights,

and offer incense on the hills,
below the oak, the terebinth, the
poplar—

so pleasant is their shade.

So your daughters play the
harlot,

matrons commit adultery.

But I will not punish your 14
daughters for harlotry,

nor your matrons for adultery,
when the men themselves go off
with harlots,

and sacrifice with temple-prosti-
tutes.

This brings a senseless people to
their ruin—

liquor and lust deprive them of 11
their wits.

Though you play the harlot, 15
Israel,

let not Judah be guilty;

never go to Gilgal,

never climb up to Beth-Aven,

never swear at Beër-sheba

‘By the life of the Eternal.’

Israel is stubborn

16

- as a restive heifer.
How can the Eternal feed them
now,
like lambs in a broad pasture?
- 17 The Ephraimites are wedded to
idolatry;
let them alone!—
- 18 a drunken band, a lustful com-
pany,
in love with shameful worship,
not my glory.
- 19 When the whirlwind sweeps
them off,
they shall feel shame for their
altars.
- 5 Hear this, O priests,
attend, O royal house;
the sentence is for you.
At Mizpah you have been a
snare,
on Tabor a net spread out,
2 at Shittim a deep pit dug;
but I will catch you hunters all.
- 3 Well do I know Ephraim,
Israel is no secret to me
(you play the harlot, Ephraim,
Israel stains herself).
- 4 Their doings will not suffer
them
to come back to their God;
for a harlot-spirit possesses
them,
and the Eternal they do not
understand.
- 5 But Israel's pride shall confront
them,
Ephraim's guilt shall undo
them,
and with them Judah too.
- 6 With flocks and cattle they shall
go
in search of the Eternal,
but they shall never find him;
he has withdrawn from them.
- 7 They have been faithless to the
Eternal,
bearing bastard children,
and so a conqueror shall destroy
them and their acres.
- Blow the bugle in Gibeah, 8
blow the clarion in Ramah,
sound the alarum at Bethel,
to startle Benjamin.
- Ephraim shall be laid bare 9
upon the day of punishment
(true is the doom that I declare
upon the clans of Israel).
- Judah's leaders are no better 10
than a man who shifts a land-
mark;
so I vent my wrath upon them.
- Ephraim is an oppressor, 11
trampling justice down—
he would go after idols vain;
so I eat Ephraim away like 12
moths,
eat away Judah's house like
worms.
- When Ephraim noticed his de- 13
cay,
and Judah his disease,
Ephraim turned to Assyria,
Judah to the great Monarch.
But he cannot heal you,
your disease he cannot cure;
for I am like a lion to Ephraim, 14
like a young lion to Judah,
I tear, I go my way,
and none can rescue my prey.
- I withdraw to my own place, 15
till they feel their iniquity
and seek my face,
searching for me in their dis-
tress.
- crying, "Let us return to the 6
Eternal,
for he has torn us, he will heal
us,
he has wounded, he will bind
us up:
in a couple of days he will revive 2
us,
and on the third day he will raise
us
to live under his care.
- Let us know the Eternal, let us 3
make haste to know him,
for he will come to us, sure as
the dawn,

- come to us like winter-rain,
like spring-rain watering the
land."
- 4 But Ephraim, what can I do
with you?
Judah, what can I do with you?
This love of yours is like a
morning cloud,
like dew that soon will disap-
pear.
- 5 So I instruct them by my words,
this precept shines out plain:
- 6 love I desire, not sacrifice,
knowledge of God, not any offer-
ings.
- 7 Yet at Adam-town they broke
their bond,
and there they played me false.
- 8 Gilead is a gang of villains,
a town of bloody footprints,
9 with bandits in full force;
and on the road to Shechem
a party of priests murder,
practise crime!
- 10 At Bethel I have seen a horrible
sight,
Ephraim playing the harlot,
Israel staining herself;
- 11 and Judah too conspires against
me.
- When I would turn the fortunes
of my people,
- 7 when I would fain heal Israel,
then Ephraim's guilt is clear,
Samaria's crimes appear.
Thieves break into houses,
bandits roam abroad.
- 2 No one of them ever reflects
that I will punish all their crime,
that their besetting sins
are ever in my sight.
- * * *
- 3 In malice they amuse their king,
in treachery their princes,
- 4 while anger breathes in all of
them
like an oven glowing,
that the baker ceases stirring
- till the kneaded dough is
leavened.
- On the birthday of "our king" 5
the princes heat themselves with
wine,
revelling with loose fellows,
traitorous men,
their secret hearts all hot 6
like ovens with their plot;
all night the intrigue will sleep,
but in the morning out it blazes,
glowing like an oven;
they consume their rulers, 7
all their kings collapse—
not one calls to me.
- * * *
- Ephraim allows himself 8
to be mixed up with foreigners;
Ephraim has become a cake
unturned as it was baked.
Foreigners eat away his 9
strength,
unknown to him;
grey hairs are on him here and
there,
unknown to him.
- [[Israel's pride shall confront 10
them, and yet they will not
come back to the Eternal their
God, nor seek him, in spite of it
all.]]
- Ephraim is like a silly, simple 11
dove,
crying to Egypt, flying to As-
syria;
but as they fly I fling my net on 12
them,
and bring them down like a bird,
punishing them for their mis-
deeds.
- Woe betide them for forsaking 13
me!
Death to them for deserting me!
- Though it was I who redeemed
them,
they have lied to me;
they never put their heart into 14
their prayers,
but howl away for corn and
wine

- beside their altars;
these wilful rebels of mine
15 (though it was I who made them strong)
plan evil, contrary to me;
16 they turn to Baal.
They are like a bow that swerves.
So, for the insolence of their talk
[[their bravado about Egypt]],
their leaders perish by the sword.
- 8 Set the trumpet to your lips!
An eagle swoops upon the house of the Eternal;
for my compact they have broken,
and rebelled against my law,
2 although they cry to me,
"God of Israel, we know thee."
3 Israel discards the good:
so let the foe pursue them!
- 4b Of silver and gold they made them idols—
only to be wasted.
5 Your Calf, Samaria, I detest it,
my wrath blazes at it
6 [[How long will it be before Israel
returns to purity of life?]];
a craftsman made it,
it is not God—
no, Samaria's Calf shall be smashed.
- 7 They sow the wind and reap the storm.
No stalk on their shoot, it bears no fruit.
If fruit it bore, a foreigner would devour it.
- 8a [[And Israel is devoured.]]
- 4a They set up kings, but not with my consent;
they set up chiefs, but not with my approval;
8b and now they count for nothing among the nations.
- They have gone off to Assyria 9
wilfully,
like a wild ass by himself;
they have offered love-gifts to Egypt.
If thus they spend themselves 10
among the nations,
I must be scattering them,
to make them cease awhile
from electing kings and chiefs.
- Many an altar has Ephraim 11
raised,
altars that only serve for sin.
Were I to write for him my laws, 12
he would but think them foreigners' saws.
They sacrifice indeed, 13
sacrifice flesh—and eat it!
The Eternal has no delight in that!
I must remember their guilt now,
and punish their iniquity
[[Back to Egypt they must go.
For Israel forgot his Maker 14
and built temples,
Judah made many a citadel:
but I fling fires of war on citadels,
and burn up temples]].
- No exultations, Israel, 9
no pagan shouts for you!
You have been faithless to your God;
you have loved a harlot's hire
at every threshing-floor.
But threshing-floor and wine- 2
vat fail you,
and the new wine shall disappoint you.
Back to Egypt Ephraim goes 3
again,
and in Assyria they eat food unclean
(for in the Eternal's land they shall not stay).
No libations to the Eternal 4
then!

- No sacrificing victims for him
then!
Their food shall be like mourn-
ers' food,
defiling all who eat it;
their food shall only be for their
own table,
none can be offered in the Eter-
nal's house.
- 5 What will you do on a festival
day,
on a day of the Eternal's feast?
- 6 You will have gone to As-
syria,
gathered in Egypt,
mustered at Memphis—
nettles covering the rare silver
idols,
thorns springing in your shrines.
- 7 The days of punishment have
come,
the days of requital.
- Israel clamours,
"A prophet is a crazy fool,
a man inspired is a man in-
sane!"—
such is the pitch of your
iniquity,
the pitch of your hostility.
- 8 The prophet is God's watch-
man,
placed over Ephraim,
and yet his paths are snared;
within the temple of his God
men are hostile to him!—
- 9 a depth of depravity as deep
as in the days of Gibeah.
God will remember their guilt
and punish their sin.
* * *
- 10 Like grapes in the wold I came
on Israel;
like first-ripe figs, I viewed your
fathers gladly.
But when they came to Baal-
peor,
they devoted themselves to
Baal the Infamous,
became as loathsome as the
thing they loved.
- Ephraim's glory, 'tis gone like a 11
bird—
no births, no mothers, no con-
ception, any more!
Even though they beget chil-
dren,
I will slay the darlings of their
womb;
even although they bring up 12
sons,
I will bereave them, to a man.
Ephraim's sons are doomed to 13
be a prey;
Ephraim has to lead his sons to
die.
Give them, O Eternal—what? 14
wombs that miscarry,
withered breasts!
Their guilt lies all at Gilgal; 15
so there I learned to hate them!
For their evil practices
I drive them from my house;
no longer will I love them—
their rulers are all rebels.
Woe betide them when I look 12c
away from them!
Ephraim is blighted, 16
withered at the root;
Ephraim the Fruitful bears no
fruit.
Their God shall cast them off, 17
for they would not obey him:
they shall be vagabonds among
the nations.
* * *
- A wanton vine was Israel, 10
and lavishly he bore;
the more his fruit increased,
the more increased his altars;
the better his land grew,
the better he made his sacred
stones.
Deceitful was their heart; 2
now they must suffer for it.
Their altars shall be broken
down,
their sacred stones destroyed.
They may say, at this day, 3
"But have we not a king?"
Ah, if men have no reverence for
the Eternal,

- what is the good of a king?
 4 Empty words, perjuries, treaties,
 what do they yield?
 Punishing judgment like poisonous weeds
 in a furrowed field.
- 5 The citizens of Samaria bemoan
 the Calf of Beth-Aven;
 for it the worshippers groan,
 the priestlings tremble
 for its vanished glory.
- 6 The Calf is carried to Assyria,
 as tribute to the great Monarch—
 to the disgrace of Ephraim,
 till Israel is ashamed of his idol.
- 7 Samaria's king is torn from her,
 tossed like a chip on the water.
- 8 The idolatrous heights shall be destroyed
 (the sin of Israel);
 thorns and thistles grow upon
 their altars.
 And men shall cry to the hills,
 "Cover us!"
 and to the mountains, "Fall on us!"
- 9 Ever since Gibeah, Israel has
 sinned—
 when the dastards opposed me.
 And shall not war catch them at Gibeah?
- 10 In my wrath I will chastise
 them,
 gathering nations to attack
 them,
 in chastisement for their two-
 fold offence.
- 11 Ephraim was a heifer tamed,
 loving to tread the threshing-
 floor;
 but when I bent her fair neck
 under the yoke,
 I forced Ephraim into harness,
 Judah had to drag the plough,
 Jacob had to harrow.
- Sow justice for yourselves, 12
 and reap a harvest of God's love;
 break up your fallow ground,
 by seeking the knowledge of the
 Eternal;
 you must seek the Eternal,
 till he comes to rain salvation on
 you.
- You have been ploughing evil, 13
 and you reaped disaster;
 you have had to eat the harvest
 of your lies.
- Because you relied on your 14
 chariots,
 on your host of war-horses,
 in your towns shall tumults
 rise,
 and all your forts be crushed;
 as Shalman crushed Beth-Arbel,
 massacring mothers and their
 babes together,
 so will I deal with you, O house 15
 of Israel,
 for your gross wickedness,
 and in the storm the king of
 Israel
 shall disappear.
- I loved Israel when he was 11
 young,
 ever since Egypt I called him
 my son.
 But the more I called to them, 2
 the further they went from me,
 sacrificing to Baals
 and offering incense to idols.
 Yet I taught Ephraim to walk, 3
 holding them in my arms;
 with human cords I led them, 4
 I drove with a harness of love,
 but they heeded not my care for
 them,
 they broke away from me;
 so I smote them on the face,
 I turned against them, overbore
 them.
 They must go back to the land 5
 of Egypt,
 or Assyria must be their king;

- 6 the sword shall ply within their towns
and lay them low within their fortresses. * * *
- 7 But my people are now weary of revolting,
they cry to me . . .
- 8 Ephraim, how can I give you up?
Israel, how can I let you go?
How can I treat you like Admah?
How can I handle you like Zeboim?
My heart recoils,
all my compassion kindles;
- 9 I will not execute my anger fierce,
to ruin Ephraim again,
for I am God, not man,
I am among you, the Majestic One,
no mortal man to slay.
- 10 The Eternal will cry like a lion,
like a lion he will roar,
and when the Eternal roars,
- 11 sons speed to him from the western shores,
some flying from Egypt like sparrows,
some like doves from the land of Assyria;
yes, I will bring them home again,
the Eternal promises. * * *
- 12 Ephraim throngs round me—
with lies,
the house of Israel with deceit;
Judah is wayward still with God,
with its faithful Deity.
- 12 Ephraim herds the wind
and hunts a sirocco,
piling up fraud and falsehood daily,
striking a bargain with Assyria,
carrying presents of oil to Egypt.
- 2 The Eternal arraigns Israel,
to punish Jacob for his doings,
to requite him for his deeds.
"Within the womb Jacob sup- 3a
planted his brother;
he fled to the land of Aram, 12
where Israel served for a wife,
for a wife he herded sheep.
In manhood he strove with God, 3b
strove with the Angel and pre- 4
vailed;
he wept and he entreated Him;
he met Him at Bethel,
and there He said to him
[[the Eternal is the God of hosts, 5
the Eternal is his name]].
'Dwell in your tents, 6
ever be kind and just,
and in your God put your un-
failing trust.'"
Swindler! he loves to practise 7
fraud,
the false scales in his hand.
Does Ephraim say, "Well, I am 8
rich,
I've wealth at my command"?
Not all his gains will be enough
to expiate his guilt.
For I am your God, the Eternal, 9
ever since you left Egypt,
and I can send you back to live
in tents as in the desert long ago.
I spoke to the prophets, 10
I gave many a vision;
and by the prophets I will make
them perish
together with their empty 11
idols—
so worthless are they now
[[By a prophet the Eternal
brought
Israel from Egypt, by a prophet 13
they were kept alive]];
at Gilgal they sacrifice to de- 11
mons!
So shall their altars be like heaps
of stones
among the furrows of a field.
Ephraim has provoked God bit- 14
terly;
so I will crush him suddenly,
and repay him for his insults.

- 13 Whenever Ephraim spoke, men
were in awe;
he was a prince in Israel.
But then he worshipped Baal,
and for his guilt he died.
- 2 And still they go on sinning,
making metal gods of silver,
idols in human form,
the craftsman's work—
and these they call their "gods"!
And men at a sacrifice,
men offer kisses to calves!
- 3 Therefore shall they melt away
like morning-clouds,
like dew that disappears so soon,
like chaff blown from a thresh-
ing-floor,
like smoke out of a lattice.
- 4 Yet it was I, the Eternal, your
God,
who brought you out of Egypt;
you have known no God but
me,
there is no other saviour;
- 5 'twas I who shepherded you in
the desert,
in that houseless land.
- 6 They fed and filled themselves,
then they grew proud
and they forgot me,
- 7 So I was a lion to them.
I leapt like a leopard on their
path,
- 8 I sprang at them like a bear
robbed of its whelps,
and tore their breast open;
I crunched them like lions,
and worried them like wild
beasts.
- 9 I will destroy you, Israel,
and who can bring you help?
- 10 Where is your king now to save
you,
where are your rulers, to uphold
your cause?—
those of whom you said,
"Give us kings and rulers."
- 11 Kings I give you in my anger,
and remove them in my wrath.
- Ephraim's iniquity is carefully 12
collected,
his sin is kept in store for him.
The pangs of childbirth are here, 13
but a senseless babe is he,
he will not come to the womb's
mouth
at the right moment.
Am I to save them from Death- 14
land?
am I to rescue them from death?
Nay, come, death, with your
plagues!
Come, Death-land, with your
pestilence!
I have no thought of relenting.
- Though he flourish like the reed- 15
plant in the water,
a wind blows from the east, a
wind of the Eternal,
driving up from the desert,
till his fountains are dry,
and his springs are parched;
he shall be stripped of his
wealth,
of all his costly treasures.
Samaria must suffer for her 16
guilt,
for she rebelled against her God;
her citizens shall be cut down,
their children shall be dashed in
pieces,
their women with child shall be
ripped open.
* * *
- Come back to your God, O 14
Israel,
for your faults have made you
fall.
Take words, as you come back 2
to the Eternal,
and say to him:
"All our iniquities forgive,
and grant us now thy favour;
let us bring thee flocks of the
fold—
for in thee the forlorn finds pity. 3c
Assyria never can save us; 3a
we will not take to war-horses
for aid,

- 36 and we will say no more 'My
God'
to what our hands have made." well-watered as a garden,
flourishing like a vine,
and fragrant as Lebânon's wine.
- 4 I will heal them from their hurt
of sin,
I will love them freely,
now mine anger has turned from
them. What more has Ephraim to do 8
with idols?
'Twas I who humbled him,
'tis I who will protect him.
I am like a cypress evergreen:
his welfare ever comes from
me.
- 5 I will be like dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like a lily,
and strike roots down like a
poplar;
- 6 his branches shall spread out,
his leaves fresh as an olive's,
his scent like the scent of in-
cense. [[Mark this, you who are wise, 9
note this, you men of sense.
The Eternal deals justly with
all;
the upright fare well under
him,
but sinners fall.]]
- 7 Once more shall they live under-
neath my shadow,

JOEL

- 1 The message of the Eternal
that came to Joel the son of
Pethuel.
- 2 Listen to this, you who are old,
hear this, all you inhabitants
of the land!
Has the like of it ever been in
your day,
or in the days of your fathers?
- 3 Tell it to your children,
and your children to their
children,
and their children to the next
generation:
- 4 'What the lopping locust left,
the swarming locust ate,
what the swarming locust left,
the leaping locust ate,
and what the leaping locust left,
the devouring locust ate.'
- 5 Wake up, you tipplers, and
weep,
wail, every swiller of wine,
for the wine is snatched from
your lips!
- 6 A host has invaded our land,
powerful and numberless,
their teeth the teeth of a lion,
with the fangs of a lioness;
- 7 our vines they have ruined,
and barked our fig-trees,
peeling and stripping them
clean,
till the branches are bleached.
- 8 Lament like a girl mourning for
her young husband!
- 9 For the Eternal's house has lost
sacrifice and libation;
the priests are in grief, who min-
ister at the Eternal's altar.
- 10 The fields are blasted;
the land is woebegone,
for the corn is wasted,
- the wine-crop fails,
the fresh oil dries up.
The farmer is downcast,
the vine-dresser wails,
for the wheat and the barley:
the harvest of the field is ruined,
the vines are languishing,
the fig-trees wither,
pomegranate, palm, and apple,
every tree of the field is a-droop-
ing,
and joy fades from men.
- Put on mourning, O priests, and 13
beat your breasts,
wail, O ministers of the altar!
Come, lie all the night in sack-
cloth,
O ministers of my God!
- Arrange a fast, assemble a gath- 14
ering,
summon all the natives to the
house of your God,
and cry to the Eternal, "[Alas 15
for the day!
the day of the Eternal is near,
and it comes as destruction
from the Destroyer.]]
- Is not the food cut off under our 16
eyes,
gladness and joy from the house
of our God?
Below the clod seed is crum- 17
bling,
the granaries are standing bare,
barns are in disrepair,
for what have we to store up
there,
now that the grain has withered?
The herds of cattle huddle to- 18
gether
for lack of pasture,
the very flocks are perishing!
We cry to thee, Eternal One, 19
for fire has scorched the pas-
tures of the downs,

flames have burned all trees of
the field;
20 even the wild beasts moan to
thee,
for the water-courses are dry."

2 Blow the bugle-blast in Sion,
sound the alarum upon my
sacred hill,
till the citizens all tremble!
For [[the Eternal's day is com-
ing—here it is!

near it is!—

2 a dark day in a shroud,
a day of fog and cloud]]
here comes a huge host in power,
blackening the hills;
the like of it never has been,
the like of it never shall be
for years upon years to come;

3 before them fire devouring,
behind them flames a-blaz-
ing;

before them the land lies like an
Eden paradise,
behind them it is a desolate
desert—

for nothing escapes them.

4 They look like horses,
they run like war-horses,

5 as chariots rattle,
they leap on the hilltops,
like flames that crackle, con-
suming the straw,
like a vast army in battle-array.

6 Hearts are in anguish before
them,
all faces turn pale.

7 They charge like warriors,
they advance like fighters,
each on his own track—
no tangling of paths—

8 none pushes his fellow,
each follows his own line;
they burst through weapons un-
broken,

9 they rush on the city, run over
the walls,
climb into the houses
and enter the windows like
thieves.

At their advance the land is 10
quaking.

the heavens are shaking,
sun and moon are dark,
the stars have ceased to shine,
and the Eternal thunders in 11
front of his army

[[a mighty host is his,
and strong are they who execute
his orders.

For the Eternal's day is great
and awful:
who can face it?]].

Yet even now, the Eternal 12
promises,

turn to me with all your
heart,

fasting, weeping, mourning,
come heart-broken, not with 13
garments torn,

and turn to the Eternal One
your God,

for he is gracious and compas-
sionate,

slow to be angry, rich in love,
and ready to relent.

Who knows but he will again 14
relent

and leave a blessing behind
him,

that you may have sacrifices
and libations

to offer to the Eternal One your
God?

Blow a bugle-blast in Sion. 15
arrange a fast, assemble a
gathering,

summon the people, arrange an 16
assembly,

gather the old men and collect
the children,

the very infants at the breast;
let the bridegroom leave his

chamber,
and the bride her bower;

and let the priests, the Eternal's 17
ministers, weep loud

between the altar and the porch,
crying, "Eternal One, oh spare
thy people,

- leave not thy heritage to be
taunted,
to be a by-word among pagans;
why should the nations sneer,
'Where is their God?' "
- 18 Then the Eternal was stirred on
behalf of his land,
in pity for his people;
- 19 the Eternal replied to his people,
"I will now send you corn and
wine and oil,
till you have ample;
I will not leave you again
to be taunted by pagans;
- 20 and the foe from the north I will
drive out,
thrusting him into a waste, dry
land,
his van to the sea on the east,
and his rear to the sea on the
west,
till he rots and the stench of him
rises."
- 21 Fear not, O land, rejoice and be
glad,
for the Eternal has done great
things.
- 22 Fear not, O beasts of the land;
for new grass covers the pastures
of the downs.
The trees bear fruit,
the fig-tree and the vine are
fertile;
- 23 O sons of Zion, be glad,
rejoice in the Eternal One your
God,
for the early rain he has given
you amply,
the winter rain he has poured
upon you,
and sent the latter rain as of
old.
- 24 The threshing-floors shall be full
of grain,
the troughs shall overflow with
wine and oil;
- 25 I will make up to you
for the years that the locusts
ate,
- the lopping, the swarming, the
leaping, the devouring
locusts,
that huge host I sent among
you.
So shall you eat and be satisfied, 26
and praise the Eternal One your
God,
who has dealt with you so won-
drously.
'Twill teach you that I am 27
within Israel,
I the Eternal am your God
alone,
and never again shall my people
be derided.
- Then shall it be that I pour out 28
my spirit on all;
your sons and daughters shall be
inspired,
your old men shall dream
dreams,
your young men shall see
visions;
even upon your slaves, both 29
men and women,
I will pour out my spirit in those
days.
And I will display portents 30
on earth and in the sky;
the sun shall be turned into 31
darkness,
the moon into blood,
before the coming of the Eter-
nal's day,
that great and awful day.
But every worshipper of the 32
Eternal shall be saved,
for Zion hill shall hold those who
escape,
as the Eternal has declared,
and the fugitives whom the
Eternal calls
shall be inside Jerusalem.
- For in those days and at that 3
time, when I restore the fortunes
of Judah and Jerusalem, then I 2
will gather all nations and bring
them down into the Judgment

- Valley, where I shall assign them their doom for their treatment of my people and of Israel my heritage, because they scattered my people among the pagans and divided up my land;
- 3 they cast lots for my people, bartering a boy to pay for a harlot and selling a girl for wine to
- 4 drink. What did you mean by it, you, O Tyre, Sidon, and all Philistia? Were you taking my part, as you wreaked your vengeance? Avenging me! I will
- 5 avenge your action swiftly and speedily on your own heads, for seizing my silver and gold and for bearing off my costly jewels
- 6 to your temples. You sold the folk of Judah and Jerusalem as slaves to the Greeks, to remove them far, far from their own
- 7 country. So now I stir them up from the lands where you sold them; I will avenge your action
- 8 on your own heads by selling your sons and daughters into the hands of the Judeans, and they shall sell them as slaves to the Sabæans, a remote nation (so the Eternal decrees).
- 9 Proclaim this to the nations: 'Let it be war! Rouse up your warriors, muster your fighting men, march!
- 10 Hammer your ploughshares into swords, your pruning-hooks into lances. Let your weaklings think them warriors, let your cowards think them heroes!'
- 11 Let the nations rouse themselves and march to Judgment Valley,
- 12 for I will sit in judgment there on all the nations round.
- 13 In with the sickle!—the harvest is ripe!
- Come, tread the winepress, tread it, it is full, the troughs are overflowing with their wickedness.
- What a din of hordes, what a din 14 within the valley of the Verdict! For the Eternal's day is near, within the valley of the Verdict.
- Dark the sun and moon, 15 the stars have ceased to shine, and the Eternal thunders out of 16 Sion, loudly from Jerusalem; heaven and earth are shaking, but the Eternal is a refuge for his own folk, a stronghold for the sons of Israel.
- 'Twill teach you that I am the 17 Eternal One, your God, dwelling in Sion, on my sacred hill; Jerusalem shall be inviolate then, never shall aliens invade her again.
- Then thus shall it be: 18 the mountains shall drip wine, the hills shall be aflow with milk, and all the brooks of Judah run with water; from the Eternal's house shall pour a stream to water the wady of Acacias. Egypt shall be lying desolate, 19 Edom a desert stretch, for their outrage to the men of Judah, for the innocent blood shed in 20a their land, blood that I avenge at last; but Judah shall for ever be in- 20b habited, Jerusalem from age to age, and evermore the Eternal 21 dwells in Sion.

AMOS

- 1 Words of Amos, who belonged to the shepherds of Tekoa—his visions of Israel during the reign of Uzziah king of Judah and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. He said: When the Eternal thunders out of Sion,
loudly from Jerusalem,
then the pasture-lands are woe-begone,
the ridge of Karmel withers.
- 3 The Eternal declares:
“After crime upon crime of Damascus
I will not relent,
for they crushed and tortured Gilead;
4 so I fling fires of war on Hazael’s house,
to burn up Benhadad’s palaces,
5 I shatter the defences of Damascus,
I wipe out chieftains from the vale of Aven,
the sceptered king from Beth-Eden,
and Aram’s folk shall be exiled to Kir—
by order of the Eternal!”
- 6 The Eternal declares:
“After crime upon crime of Gaza
I will not relent,
for they would bear off a whole population
and sell them into slavery to Edom;
7 so I fling fires of war on Gaza’s walls,
to burn up its palaces,
8 I wipe out the chieftains from Ashdod,
the sceptred king from Ashkelon,
I strike my blows at Ekron,

till the last of the Philistines perish—
by order of the Lord Eternal.”

[[The Eternal declares: 9
“After crime upon crime of Tyre
I will not relent;
for they would sell a whole population to Edom,
with no thought for their bond of brotherhood;
so I fling fires of war upon the 10
walls of Tyre,
to burn up its palaces.”]

The Eternal declares: 11
“After crime upon crime of Edom
I will not relent;
for sword in hand he pursued his brother,
stifling all pity,
he held to his anger
and cherished his wrath;
so I fling fires of war on Teman, 12
to burn up Busaireh’s palaces.”]

The Eternal declares: 13
“After crime upon crime of the Ammonites
I will not relent;
for, as they extended their frontiers,
they ripped open women with child in Gilead;
so I set fire to Rabbah’s walls, 14
to burn up its palaces,
amid shouts on the day of battle,
amid storming on the day of blasts,
till their king is carried off to 15
exile,
he together with his nobles—
by order of the Eternal.”

The Eternal declares: 2
“After crime upon crime of Moab

- I will not relent;
for they burned the bones of the
Edomite king,
to desecrate the dead,
in vengeance for violence done
to Moab;
- 2 so I fling fires of war on Moab,
to burn up Keriyyoth's palaces,
amid shouts and the blare of
trumpets;
- 3 I wipe out their monarch
and slay all his nobles with
him—
by order of the Eternal."
- 4 [[The Eternal declares:
"After crime upon crime of
Judah
I will not relent;
for they have rejected the Eter-
nal's ruling,
they have disobeyed his orders,
led astray by their false gods,
by idols that their ancestors
followed;
- 5 so I fling fires of war on Judah,
to burn up the palaces of Jeru-
salem."]]
- 6 The Eternal declares:
"After crime upon crime of
Israel
I will not relent,
for they sell honest folk for
money,
the needy for a pair of shoes,
7 they trample down the poor like
dust,
and humble souls they harry;
father and son go in to the same
girl
(a profanation of my sacred
shrine!),
8 they loll on garments seized in
pledge,
by every altar,
they drink the money taken in
fines
in the temple of their God.
- 10 Yet it was I who brought you up
from Egypt's land,
- for forty years I led you through
the desert,
to occupy the Amorite land,
I felled the Amorite before 9
you—
though he towered like a cedar,
strong as an oak,
I felled him, fruit above
and root below;
I raised up sons of yours as 11
prophets,
and young men to be Nazirites.
Is it not so, O Israel?
the Eternal asks you.
But you gave Nazirites wine to 12
drink,
and forbade prophets to proph-
esy.
So now I make your steps col- 13
lapse,
as a cart collapses, laden with
sheaves,
and flight shall fail the swift. 14
the sturdy shall not hold their
own,
the warrior shall not escape
alive,
the archer shall not stand his 15
ground,
quick-footed men shall not get
clear,
horsemen shall not escape,
and even the stalwarts in the 16
ranks
shall strip and run upon that
day—
this by order of the Eternal."
- Listen to this charge of the 3
Eternal against you, sons of
Israel, against the whole race
that I brought up from the land
of Egypt:
You alone, of all men, have I 2
cared for;
therefore I will punish you for
all your misdeeds.
- Do two men travel together, 3
unless they have planned
it?

- 4 Does a lion in the jungle roar,
unless he has some prey?
Does a young lion growl in his
lair, unless he has made a
capture?
- 5 Does a bird drop into the trap,
unless the trap is baited?
Does the trap spring up, unless
there is something to catch?
- 6 Do not townfolk tremble, when
the alarm is blown?
Can trouble befall a town, unless
the Eternal is at work?
- 7 The Lord Eternal never does
anything
without telling his servants the
prophets.
- 8 When the lion roars, who does
not shudder?
When the Lord Eternal speaks,
who can but prophesy?
- 9 Proclaim this in the palaces of
Assyria
and in the palaces of Egypt's
land:
"Muster on Samaria's hills,
look at the rife disorders there,
at all the oppression in their
midst;
- 10 they know not how to deal
justly,
they plenish their palaces by
violence and robbery."
- 11 Therefore, the Lord Eternal
declares,
the Foe shall overrun the land,
laying your forts level,
plundering your palaces.
- 12 The Eternal declares:
As a shepherd snatches from a
lion's mouth
no more than two bones or a rag
of an ear,
so scarcely shall the Israelites be
rescued,
who loll on corners of diwans
within Samaria,
on silken cushions of a couch.
- 13 I strike down winter-house and
summer-house together,
and ivoried houses perish—
aye, many a house is swept
away:
by order of the Eternal.
- Listen and testify against the 13
house of Jacob, says the Lord
Eternal, the God of hosts, that 14
when I punish Israel for his
iniquities,
I will punish the Bethel altars
on that day,
till the knobs of the altar are
cut away
and drop to the ground.
- Listen to this, you cows of Ba- 4
shan,
you women in high Samaria,
you who defraud the poor and
are hard on the needy,
who tell your husbands 'Let us
have wine to drink!'
As sure as I am God, the Lord 2
Eternal swears,
your day is coming,
when you will be dragged out
with prongs,
the last of you with fish-hooks:
out you go, through breaches in 3
the walls,
each of you headlong,
chased to mount Hermon—
by order of the Eternal.
- Go to Bethel, go on with your 4
sins!
pile sin on sin at Gilgal!
aye, sacrifice in the morning.
and every third day pay your
tithes,
burn your dough as a thank- 5
offering,
announce your freewill gifts—
oh, make them public,
for you love all that, you Israel-
ites!
- The Lord Eternal declares:
"My way has been to starve your 6
towns
and to spread famine over all the
land;

yet, says the Eternal, yet
you would not come back to me.

- 7 I kept the rain from you,
three months before the harvest,
I would send rain on one town
and hold it from another,
one patch would get rain,
and the rainless patch dried up,
8 till two or three towns would
crawl to another

in quest of water, all in vain;
and yet, says the Eternal, yet
you would not come back to me.

- 9 I smote you with blight and
mildew,
I wasted your gardens and vine-
yards,
the locust spoiled your fig-trees
and your vines;
yet, says the Eternal, yet
you would not come back to me.

- 10 I sent you an Egyptian plague,
I slew your soldiers in the fight
and the flower of your steeds,
till the stench of your camp
rose to your nostrils;
and yet, says the Eternal, yet
you would not come back to me.

- 11 I sent you a shattering earth-
quake,
like God's own shattering of
Sodom and Gomorrah,
till you only escaped
like charred sticks snatched
from the fire;
and yet, says the Eternal, yet
you would not come back to me.

- 12 So now I will deal with you,
O Israel, thus . . . Since
thus I deal with you, O Israel,
13 prepare to meet your God; for it
is he who forms the mountains
and creates the wind and reveals
His inner mind to man, he who
makes the dawn and darkness,
who marches over the heights of

earth—his name is the Eternal,
God of hosts; he it is who made 5
the Pleiades and Orion, who 8
turns black darkness into dawn
and darkens day again into the
night, who summons floods and
pours them on the earth; his
name is the Eternal—he flashes 9
ruin on the mighty, till their
forts fall to the ground.

Listen to this word of mine 1
against you, house of Israel,
listen to this dirge:

'Fallen, fallen, never to rise, 2
is maiden Israel;
low on her own land she lies,
with none to raise her.'
For the Lord Eternal has de- 3
clared that the town which
marched out a thousand strong
will have only a hundred men
left, and the town which
marched out a hundred strong
will have only ten men left."

Here is the Eternal's message 4
for the house of Israel:
Seek me and you shall live,
seek not Bethel, 5
go not to Gilgal,
cross not to Beersheba
(for Gilgal shall have a galling
exile,
and Bethel sink to be bethral);
seek the Eternal and live, 6
lest he set Joseph's house ablaze
with fire
that none can quench in Israel.

You who make justice a bitter 7
thing,
trampling on the law,
hating a 'man who exposes 10
you,
loathing him who is honest with
you!—
for this, for crushing the weak, 11
and forcing them to give you
grain,
houses of ashlar you may build,

- but you shall never dwell in them,
and vineyards you may plant,
but you shall drink no wine from them.
- 12 I know your countless crimes,
your manifold misdeeds—
browbeating honest men, ac-
cepting bribes,
defrauding the poor of jus-
tice.
- 13 (It is a time when the prudent
make no protest,
so evil is the time!)
- 16 But the Eternal speaks,
the God of hosts declares:
“A wail shall ring through all
your squares,
a cry of woe in all your streets,
the very peasants shall be
moved
to wail with those well skilled
in dirges,
- 17 and in all vineyards there shall
be lamenting,
when I sweep through your
midst,
the Eternal declares.”
- 18 You long for the day of the
Eternal?
Ah, what will that avail you,
6 so eager to avert the evil day,
3 so keen upon injustice?
5 A man runs from a lion,
19 and a bear springs at him;
he hides indoors, and, resting
his hand on the wall,
a serpent bites him—
20 is not that the day of the Eter-
nal,
danger, not safety,
pitch dark, and not a ray of
light?
- 21 Your sacred festivals? I hate
them, scorn them;
your sacrifices? I will not smell
their smoke;
22 you offer me your gifts? I will
not take them;
- you offer fatted cattle? I will
not look at them.
No more of your hymns for me! 23
I will not listen to your lutes.
No, let justice well up like fresh 24
water,
let honesty roll in full tide.
Was it sacrifice and offering you 25
brought me
all the forty years within the
desert, Israel?
So now you must shoulder your 26
king Sakkut,
and Kaiwan your star-god,
idols you have manufactured;
for into exile I send you, far 27
beyond Damascus,
the Eternal, the God of hosts,
declares.
[[Seek to be honest, not evil, 14
and so live;
that the Eternal may be with
you,
as you think he is.
Hate evil and love honesty, 15
set justice up again;
it may be that the Eternal, the
God of hosts,
may pity those left of the house
of Joseph.]]
Woe to the careless citizens, 6
so confident in high Samaria,
leaders of this most ancient race,
who are like gods in Israel!—
[[Pass over to Kalneh, look at 2
it,
then on to great Hamath,
then down to Gath of the Philis-
tines.
Are you any better than these
realms,
is your land larger than theirs?]]
lolling on their ivory diwans, 4
sprawling on their couches,
dining off fresh lamb and fatted
veal,
crooning to the music of the 5
lute,
composing airs like David him-
self,
lapping wine by the bowlful, 6

- and using for ointment the best
of the oil—
with never a single thought
for the bleeding wounds of the
nation.
- 7 So now they must head the
exiles;
that dissolute crew shall dis-
appear—
by order of the Eternal, the God
of hosts.
- 8 The Lord Eternal has sworn by
his own life,
“I loathe the pride of Jacob,
his palaces I hate;
I will abandon the city and all it
holds,
- 11 the mansion to be pulled to
pieces,
the small house to be shattered.
- 9 [[And it shall be that if ten men
are left within a house, they
10 shall die. If some survivor who
brings out their bodies from the
house for burial calls to a woman
in the corner, ‘Are there any
left alive?’ she will answer, ‘No!
They all did sinfully.’ She will
cry, ‘Call upon the Eternal!’]]
- 12 Shall horses race over crags,
or oxen plough the sea,
that you make a poison of
justice,
a bitter, deadly thing?
- 13 You are so proud of Lo-Debar,
you think you captured Kar-
naim by your own strength.
- 14 But I am rousing against you a
nation,
O house of Israel,
says the Eternal, the God of
hosts,
and they shall harry you
from the pass of Hamath to the
wady of the Arābah.”
- 7 Then the Lord Eternal showed
me this,
showed me himself forming a
brood of locusts,
- just as the spring-crops were
coming up,
when the royal crop had been
mowed.
As they devoured all the green 2
growth, I cried,
“Have mercy, Lord, have
mercy!
How can Jacob recover?—he has
so little.”
- Then the Eternal did relent, 3
the Eternal said, “This shall
not be.”
- The Lord Eternal showed me 4
this,
showed me himself calling down
fire
to burn up the great deep,
to burn up the tilled land.
“Cease, Lord, oh cease,” I cried. 5
“How can Jacob recover?—he
has so little.”
- Then the Eternal did relent, 6
the Eternal said, “This shall not
be.”
- The Lord Eternal showed me 7
this,
showed me himself standing
beside a wall,
a plumb-line in his hand.
The Eternal said to me, 8
“Amos, what do you see?”
“A plumb-line,” I replied.
The Eternal said, “With a
plumb-line I test my peo-
ple;
never again will I pardon them,
but Isaac’s heights shall be laid
waste,
the shrines of Israel shall be
ruined,
and I will attack Jeroboam’s
house with the sword.”
- Then the priest at Bethel,
Amaziah, sent word to Jero-
boam king of Israel: “Amos is
conspiring against you in the
very midst of Israel, and the

- country cannot bear what he is
 11 saying. This is what he says,
 that Jeroboam is to die by the
 sword, and Israel to go into
 exile, far from its own country.”
 12 Amaziah also told Amos, “You
 dreamer! Be off to Judah and
 earn your living there; play the
 13 prophet there, but never again
 at Bethel, for it is the royal
 shrine, the national temple.”
 14 But Amos answered Amaziah,
 “I am no prophet, no member
 of any prophets’ guild; I am
 only a shepherd, and I tend
 15 sycomores. But the Eternal
 took me from the flock; the
 Eternal said to me, ‘Go and
 prophesy to my people Israel.’
 16 Now then, listen to what the
 Eternal says. You say that I
 am not to prophesy against
 Israel, not to say one word
 17 against the house of Isaac. The
 Eternal says, ‘Your wife shall be
 a harlot in the town, your sons
 and daughters shall fall by the
 sword, your farm shall be di-
 vided up, and you yourself shall
 die in a foreign land; for Israel
 is indeed to be led off to exile,
 far from its own country.’ ”
 8 The Lord Eternal showed me
 this:
 a basket of ripe fruit.
 2 Then said he,
 “Amos, what do you see?”
 “A basket of ripe fruit,” said I;
 and the Eternal said to me,
 “So is the doom ripe for my
 people Israel;
 never again will I pardon them.”
 4 Listen to this, you men who
 crush the humble,
 and oppress the poor,
 5 muttering, “When will the new-
 moon be over,
 that we may sell our grain?
 When will the sabbath be done,
 that our corn may be on sale?”

(small you make your measures,
 large your weights,
 you cheat by tampering with the
 scales)—
 and all to buy up innocent folk, 6
 to buy the needy for a pair of
 shoes,
 to sell the very refuse of your
 grain.
 The Eternal has sworn by the 7
 pride of Jacob,
 “Never will I forget what you
 have done.”
 [[For all this shall not the land 8
 have to shake,
 and every dweller mourn?
 Shall it not all rise up like the
 Nile,
 and sink like Egypt’s flood?]]
 Upon that day, the Lord Eter- 9
 nal declares,
 I will make the sun go down at
 noon,
 and darken the earth in broad
 daylight,
 turn your festivals into mourn-10a
 ing,
 and your ditties into dirges;
 the temple hymns shall change 3
 to howls,
 as corpse on corpse is being
 flung outside with a
 “Hush!”
 Upon that day, the Lord Eternal
 declares,
 I will make every loin wear sack- 10
 cloth,
 and every head be shaved in
 mourning,
 I will make you lament as for an
 only son—
 a day of utter bitterness.
 The time is coming, says the 11
 Lord Eternal,
 when I will send a famine on the
 land,
 no famine of bread, no drouth
 of water,
 but of hearing the word of the
 Eternal,

- 12 till men go wandering from sea
to sea,
and run from north to east,
in quest of the Eternal's word—
and all in vain.
- 13 On that day they shall faint,
faint, fall, and never rise again,
the maidens fair and stalwart
youths,
- 14 who swear by the god at Bethel,
who say, "As your god lives,
O Dan!"
or, "As your Patron lives, Beër-
sheba!"
- 9 I saw the Lord standing be-
side the altar;
"Strike the pillars on the top,"
said he,
"that the ceiling may be shaken,
break them on the heads of all
the worshippers;
those who are left I will slay
with the sword,
not one shall escape as he flies,
not one survivor shall get clear
away.
- 2 Though they were to break
through to Death-land,
I would pull them out:
though they were to climb up
to heaven,
I would drag them down:
- 3 though they were concealed on
Karmel's summit,
I would find and fetch them:
though they were to hide from
me under the sea,
I would bid the Dragon bite
them:
- 4 though they went into exile in
front of their foes,
I would command the sword
to slay them.
My eye will be upon them
for evil, not for good.
- 5 ["'Tis the Eternal, Lord of hosts,
at whose touch the earth trem-
bles,
and every dweller wails,
as it all rises like the Nile
- and sinks like Egypt's flood;
'tis he who builds his chambers 6
high in heaven
and rests his Vault upon the
earth,
who summons floods and pours
them on the earth—
the Eternal is his name.]]
What are you more than Ethio- 7
pians?
O Israelites, the Eternal asks?
I brought up Israel from Egypt?
yes,
and Philistines from Crete,
from Kir the Aramæans.
Mine eyes are on the sinful 8
realm,
to wipe it off the earth.
[[Only I will not wipe out all the
house of Jacob,
the Eternal promises.
For I will issue my command 9
to shake the house of Israel
among all nations,
like corn within a sieve,
but not one grain of it shall
fall.
- The sword shall slay the sinners 10
of my people,
all who say, 'Trouble will
never touch us, never
catch us.'
- On that day I will raise again 11
the fallen huts of David,
repair their breaches, mend their
rifts,
rebuild them as in days of
old,
till the people hold what is left 12
of Edom
and of all nations I have con-
quered:
the Eternal has said it,
the Eternal will do it.
- The time is coming, the Eternal 13
One declares, 14
when the ploughman overtakes
the reaper,

when he who treads grapes over- takes the sower, when mountains drip with new wine, and all the hills are aflow with milk;	to plant vineyards and drink their wine, to lay out gardens and to eat their fruit. In their own land I will plant 15 them,
14 when I bring back the exiles of my people Israel, to build waste towns and dwell in them,	nevermore to be uprooted from the land I give to them— so the Eternal promises, your God.”]]

OBADIAH

1 The vision of Obadiah. This is what the Lord Eternal has to say of Edom—the tidings we heard from the Eternal as the envoy went through the nations with his summons to rise and make war on her.

2 “I will make you least among the nations,
deeply despised by men.

3 Your pride of heart has played you false,
perched in your fastness of the rocks,
you who built your home so high,
thinking none could pull you down.

4 Nest high as any eagle,
nest among the very stars—
but I will pull you down, says the Eternal.

What a downfall is yours!

5 Had thieves come to you, robbers in the night,
would they have stolen more than they required?

Had gatherers of grapes come to you,
would they not have left some gleanings?

6 But what a ransacking of Edom!
what a rifling of her treasures!

7 You are driven to the very border;
all your allies have betrayed you,
your confederates have dislodged you,
laying plots to discomfit you,
plots you had no wit to see.

8 Will not that be the day, says the Eternal,

when I wipe out all the astute from Edom,
and the shrewd men from Esau's ranges?

Teman, even your heroes will be 9
terrified!

'Twill be a clean sweep of all Esau.

'Tis for the outrage to your 10
brother Jacob

you are disgraced, destroyed.
For when you stood aloof, 11
as foreigners bore off his goods,

as aliens invaded him and cast lots for Jerusalem,
you were as one of them.

Never should you have gloated 12
over your brother's fate
on his day of disaster,
never have exulted over the men of Judah

upon their day of ruin,
never have laughed aloud on the day of distress;

never should you have entered 13
the gates of my people
on the day of their calamity,

never have gloated over their agony

on the day of their calamity,
never have looted their goods on the day of their calamity,
never have stood at the passes to 14
cut off their fugitives,
and never betrayed their survivors,
on the day of distress.

As you did then, so it is done to 15
you:
your deeds recoil on your own head.

Yes, the day of the Eternal is at hand, with doom for all the nations.

- 16 You on my sacred hill have drunk the cup,
and so shall every nation drink it at my hand,
drink it and stagger and vanish.
- 17 But your survivors shall hold Sion hill,
and it shall be inviolate;
the house of Jacob shall regain their heritage.
- 18 For the house of Jacob shall be fire,
and Joseph's house a flame,
with Esau's house as straw
to be kindled and consumed,
till not a soul is left of Esau's house—
by order of the Eternal.
- They shall hold the Negeb 19
(Esau's ranges), the lowlands of the Philistines, the hill country (both Ephraim's district and Samaria's), and Gilcad of the Ammonites; exiles from 20
Halah and the Habor shall hold Phoenicia as far as Zarephath, and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall hold the towns of the Negeb, marching 21
to Sion hill for victory and vengeance upon Esau's ranges. So shall the Eternal reign."

JONAH

- 1 This message from the Eternal came to Jonah the son of
 2 Amittai: "Go to Nineveh, that great city, and thunder in their ears that their wickedness is
 3 known to me." But Jonah went away to fly to Tartessus, from the presence of the Eternal; he came down to Jaffa, and when he found a ship there sailing for Tartessus, he paid his fare and went on board to reach Tartessus with the crew, to avoid the presence of the
 4 Eternal. But the Eternal flung a furious wind upon the sea; there was a heavy storm at sea, and the ship thought she would
 5 be broken. The sailors were scared; each cried to his own god, and they flung the tackle of the ship overboard, in order to lighten her. Now Jonah had gone below and was lying fast
 6 asleep. The captain came upon him and said to him, "What are you doing asleep? Get up and call upon your god! Perhaps he will give a thought to us and
 7 save us." Then they said, one to another, "Come on, let us cast lots to find out who has brought this trouble upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on
 8 Jonah. They asked him, "Tell us now, what are you doing here? Where do you come from? What is your country, and what is your nation?" So he told them, "I am a Hebrew, I worship the Eternal, the God of heaven, who made the sea
 9 and the dry land." Then the men said to him in terror, "Whatever have you done?" (for they discovered he was flying from the Eternal; Jonah
 10 had told them that). They said, "What are we to do with you, to make the sea calm?" (for the seas were running higher and higher). "Take me and throw me into the sea," he said; "that will bring a calm. I see that it is I who have brought this storm upon you." But the men dug in their oars, to row the ship to land. Only, they could not, for the seas ran higher and higher against them. So they cried to the Eternal, "O Eternal, we beseech thee, let us not perish for taking this man's life; punish us not for a murder. Thou hast thyself brought this about, O Eternal." Then, lifting Jonah, they flung him into the sea. The sea ceased from its fury, and the men, in great awe of the Eternal, sacrificed to him and made vows to him. Now the Eternal ordered a great fish to swallow Jonah, and for three days and three nights Jonah lay in the belly of the fish. From the belly of the fish Jonah prayed thus to the Eternal his God: "Out of my anguish I called to the Eternal, and he answered me; from the belly of Death I cried, and thou didst hear my voice. Thou hadst flung me down, deep in the sea, the floods rolled round me, all thy breakers and billows swept over me. I thought I was flung out of thy sight, never to see thy sacred shrine again. The waters closed to choke me,

- the deep rolled round me,
 sea-weeds wrapped my head,
 6 I sank to the very roots of the
 mountains,
 to a land where bars shut be-
 hind me for ever.
 But from the pit thou didst lift
 my life,
 O Eternal my God.
- 7 When I lay fainting,
 I remembered the Eternal,
 and my prayer reached thee,
 reached thy sacred shrine.
- 8 Those who heed vain idols leave
 their real refuge,
 9 but I will sacrifice to thee with
 loud thanksgiving;
 what I have vowed I will per-
 form,
 for 'tis the Eternal who de-
 livers."
- 10 Then the Eternal spoke to the
 fish and it threw up Jonah on
 3 the dry land. For the second
 time the Eternal sent this mes-
 2 sage to Jonah: "Go to Nineveh,
 that great city, and proclaim
 3 there what I tell you." So
 Jonah rose and went to Nine-
 veh, as the Eternal ordered.
 Now Nineveh was a great,
 great city, three days' jour-
 ney across, from one side to
 4 another. Jonah made his
 way into it for one day, and
 then began to shout, "Forty
 days more and Nineveh falls!"
 4 He then went outside the city
 5 to the east, where he made a
 hut for himself and sat down
 under it in the shade, to see
 what would happen to the city.
- 3 But the folk of Nineveh believed
 5 God; they proclaimed a fast and
 put on sackcloth, from the
 6 highest to the lowest. When
 the news reached the king of
 Nineveh, he rose from his
 throne, doffed his royal robe,
 covered himself with sackcloth,
- and sat down in ashes. He also 7
 sent heralds to cry through
 Nineveh: "By order of the king
 and his nobles! Neither man
 nor beast, neither cattle nor
 sheep, shall taste anything, food
 or drink; they must put on 8
 sackcloth and call earnestly on
 God. Everyone must turn from
 his evil life and from the vio-
 lence he has in hand. Who 9
 knows if God will not relent and
 turn from his hot anger, to save
 us?" When God saw what they 10
 were doing, and how they
 turned from their evil life, God
 did relent; he decided not to
 inflict the punishment he had
 said he would inflict upon them.
 This vexed Jonah mightily. 4
 He was angry, and he prayed to the 2
 Eternal: "Ah, Eternal One, did
 I not say so, when I was still at
 home? That was why I fled to
 Tartessus. I knew thou wert a
 gracious and pitiful God, slow to
 be angry, rich in love, and ready
 to relent! Now then, O Eternal, 3
 take my life away. Better death
 than life!" "Are you right to 4
 be angry?" said the Eternal.
 The Eternal then made a gourd 6
 spring up to shade his head
 [[that Jonah might have ease]].
 Jonah was mightily glad of the
 gourd. But next morning, at 7
 dawn, God made a worm which
 gnawed the gourd till it
 withered, and at sunrise God 8
 sent a sweltering east wind; the
 sun beat on the head of Jonah
 till he fainted and longed to be
 dead. "Better death than life!"
 he cried. Then God asked 9
 Jonah, "Are you right to be
 angry over the gourd?" "Yes,"
 said Jonah, "mortally angry."
 So the Eternal said to him, 10
 "You are sorry about the gourd,
 though you spent no toil upon
 it, you never made it grow—a

gourd that sprang up in a night
11 and perished in a night! And
am I not to be sorry for Nine-
veh, that great city, with over a
hundred and twenty thousand
infants in it who know not their
right hand from their left, and
with all its cattle?"

MICAH

- 1 The message of the Eternal
that came to Micah of Morêsheth during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah—his visions of Samaria and Jerusalem.
- 2 Attend, all nations,
listen, O earth and all on earth!
The Eternal has a warning for you,
the Lord from his sacred temple on high.
- 3 Look, the Eternal descends from his place,
he strides on the heights of the earth!
- 4 Mountains melt away before him,
valleys split asunder,
like wax before a fire,
like water pouring over a fall—
- 5 “and all this for Jacob’s transgression,
for the sins of the house of Judah!
Jacob’s transgression? is it not in Samaria?
Judah’s sin? is it not in Jerusalem?”
- 6 So I will have Samaria ploughed up,
planted out with vines;
her stones I will pour down into the valley,
and lay bare her foundations,
7 shattering all her metal gods,
burning all her idols,
and ruining her shrines—
once the prize of faithless living,
now the prey of faithless foes.”
- 8 I will bewail this and lament,
I will go barefoot and unclad,
howling like a jackal,
wailing hoarsely like an ostrich;
- 9 for Samaria’s is a deadly stroke,
her doom shall reach to Judah,
to the very gates of my own folk,
even to Jerusalem.
- Weep tears at Teartown (Bochim),
grovel in the dust at Dustown (Beth-ophrach)
fare forth stripped, O Fairtown (Saphir)!
- Stirtown (Zaanan) dare not stir,
Beth-êsel . . .
and Maroth hopes in vain; 12
for doom descends from the Eternal
to the very gates of Jerusalem.
- Harness your steeds and away, 13
O Horsetown (Lakhish),
O source of Sion’s sin,
where the crimes of Israel centre!
- O maiden Sion, you must part 14
with
Morêsheth of Gath;
and Israel’s kings are ever
balked
at Balkton (Achzib).
- I will march the conqueror on 15
you yet,
O men of Mareslah;
and Israel’s pomp shall perish
utterly.
- Israel, shave your head and 16
hair,
in mourning for your children
dear,
shave it like a vulture’s, bare,
for they are lost to you.
- Woe to men who on their beds 2
some mischief plan,
and carry it out when morning
comes,
because they can!—
coveting fields and seizing them, 2
coveting houses and snatching
them,

- crushing yeomen and their homes,
smallholders and their livings.
- 3 "Therefore," the Eternal declares,
"I plan something, plan a fate from which you cannot shake you free,
nor rid you of its crushing weight:
so evil is the time.
- 4 Then shall you be taunted, as this dirge is chanted:
'Undone! we are undone!
the soil of our folk is parcelled out,
past all restoring;
our captors are dividing up our fields.' "
- 5 "For talk like that you lose your share
in the community of the Eternal!
- 6 Stop it," they cry,
"such harping is not prophecy;
no shameful fate can e'er o'er-take the house of Jacob.
- 7 Is the Eternal's temper quick?
Is that how he would act?
Are not his words to Israel kind?"
- 11 The prophet for folk like this
would be some empty fellow
and a liar,
who promised to prophesy of wine and spirits!
- 8 You are the worst foes of my folk,
attacking peaceful men,
and plundering quiet passers-by.
- 9 evicting women from their happy homes,
branding their babies with slavery.
- 10 Away with you! begone!
this is no place for you!—
depravity
shall ruin you beyond all remedy.
- I said also:
Listen now, leaders of Jacob,
judges over the house of Israel;
you haters of right and lovers of wrong,
is not a sense of justice due from you?
But they devour my people's flesh
and strip them of their skirt,
laying their very bones bare,
chopping them up like flesh for the pot,
like meat in a cauldron.
One day they shall cry to the Eternal,
but he will never heed them;
he will hide his face from them,
for the crimes they have committed.
- "And as for the prophets," the Eternal says,
"who lead my folk astray,
who cry 'All's well!' if they get food to eat,
and open war on any who refuse them,
it shall be night for you, devoid of vision,
so dark that you cannot divine;
the sun shall set upon the prophets,
daylight shall darken over them,
till seers are shamed,
and the diviners blush,
in mourning, all of them,
because no answer comes from God."
- But I am full of strength and skill and courage,
inspired by the Eternal,
to let Jacob know its crimes,
and Israel its sins.
Leaders of Jacob, listen to this.
you judges over the house of Israel,
who spurn at justice and twist equity,

- 10 who build your Sion up with bloodshed
and Jerusalem on crime.
- 11 judges passing verdicts for a bribe,
priests patterning oracles for pay,
prophets divining for money,
and all the while relying on the Eternal,
saying, "Surely the Eternal is among us;
no evil can befall us!"
- 12 Therefore on your account shall Sion be ploughed up like a field,
Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,
the temple-hill a mere wooded height.
- * * *
- 4 In after days it shall be that the Eternal's hill shall rise,
towering over every hill,
and higher than the heights.
- 2 Nations shall stream to it,
and many a people shall exclaim,
"Come, let us go to the Eternal's hill,
to the house of Jacob's God,
that he may instruct us in his ways,
to walk upon his paths."
For instruction comes from Sion,
and from Jerusalem the Eternal's word.
- 3 He will decide the disputes of many races,
and arbitrate between strong foreign powers,
till swords are beaten into ploughshares,
and spears into pruning-hooks;
no nation draws the sword against another,
no longer shall men learn to fight.
- 4 but live each underneath his vine
and underneath his fig-tree,
- in terror of no one:
for so the lips of the Lord of hosts decree.
[[All nations may live loyal each 5
to its own god,
but we will live ever loyal to our God the Eternal.]]
- On that day, the Eternal promises,
I will collect the stragglers,
I will gather the outcast whom I once afflicted;
I will make the lame the nucleus 7
of a nation,
make the sick into a power,
with the Eternal reigning over them on Sion hill,
henceforth and for all time.
- I will collect all Jacob, 2
gather Israel's survivors, 12
all together like sheep in a fold,
like a flock in its pasture,
with the stir and noise of numbers.
- The bell-wether opens the way 13
for them,
and out they pour and pass,
led as by their King,
by the Eternal at their head.
- O watch-tower of the flock, 4
O height of maiden Sion, 8
the dominion of yore
shall be yours once more,
the royal power of Israel.
- Why are you wailing aloud? 9
Is it for lack of a king,
for the loss of a royal guide,
that you are in this agony?
[[Writhe and scream, O Sion, 10
like a woman in her travail;
for soon you must leave the city
to live in the open;
you must go to Babylon;
but there you shall be rescued,
there the Eternal will deliver you from your foes.]]
- Many a nation now musters 11
against you,

- thinking to gloat over Sion
desecrated and defeated;
- 12 little they know the Eternal's
plan,
little they understand how he
is gathering them as sheaves for
threshing.
- 13 "Maiden Sion, up and thresh!
I will make you horns of iron,
hoofs as hard as bronze,
to trample many a people down,
consecrating their spoils to the
Eternal,
their wealth to the Lord of all
the earth;
- 5 your arm shall triumph over all
9 your foes,
and any enemy shall be
crushed."
- 1 Now you may gash yourself in
grief;
for siege is laid to you,
blows of insult strike the cheek
of Israel's sheikh.
- 5 But this will protect us,
when the Assyrian invades our
land,
when he sets foot on our soil;
ample leaders we shall raise
against him,
princes ample and enough,
- 6 to let Assyria feel the sword
and drive the bare blade over
Nimrod's land,
rescuing us from the Assyrian,
when he invades our land
and sets foot on our territory.
- 2 O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
tiniest of townships in all Judah,
out of you a king shall come
to govern Israel,
one whose origin is of old,
of long descent
- 3 [[The Eternal leaves them to
themselves, until his mother
gives birth to him; and then the
survivors of his family shall re-
join Israel; return they shall, for
4b by that time his power shall ex-

tend to the ends of the earth]],
one who stands firm and rules 4a
with the strength of the Eternal,
with high authority from his
God the Eternal.

Like dew that drops from the 7
Eternal

so shall the residue of Jacob be,
among the mass of nations,
like showers upon the grass,
needing no help of man,
no human aid.

Like a lion among beasts of the 8
jungle,

so shall the residue of Jacob be,
among the mass of nations,
like a young lion loose among
the sheep,

that tears and tramples them,
none able to bring rescue.

"On that day," the Eternal 10
declares, "I will cut off your
war-horses and destroy your
chariots, I will root out the 11
towns of your country and ruin
all your fortresses; I will deprive 12
you of your sorcery—you must
have no more wizards; I will cut 13
out of you idols and sacred
stones—you must no longer
worship things you manufac- 14
ture; I will uproot your sacred
poles and destroy your images
[[and in wrath and fury I will in- 15
flict unheard-of punishment
upon pagans]]."

* * *
Listen, the Eternal will have his 6
indictment urged
in presence of the mountains,
in hearing of the hills!

Listen to the Eternal's charge, O 2
mountains,
hear it, O foundations of the
earth;
for the Eternal arraigns his
people,
and indicts Israel.

- 3 "My people, what have I done
to you?
Tell me how have I injured you?
4 Did I not bring you up from
Egypt's land?
Did I not set you free from
slavery?
Did I not send Moses, Aaron,
Miriam, to lead you?
5 My people, what did Balak
plan?
And how did Balaam answer
him?
Ah, remember it all, from first
to last,
from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may understand the
Eternal's saving power."
- 6 How shall I enter the Eternal's
presence,
and bow before the God of
heaven?
Shall I come to him with sacri-
fices,
with yearling calves to offer?
7 Would the Eternal care for rams
in thousands,
or for oil flowing in myriad
streams?
Shall I offer my first-born son
for my sin,
fruit of my body for guilt of my
soul?
- 8 O man, he has told you what is
good;
what does the Eternal ask from
you
but to be just and kind
and live in quiet fellowship with
your God?
- 9 Hark, 'tis the Eternal calling to
the city:
"Listen, O clan of Judah, O
council of citizens—
12 hard and harsh are the classes,
deceitful are the masses,
with mouths full of falsehood.
10 Can I forget what rogues have
hoarded,
and these accursed scant meas-
ures?
Can I condone wrong balances 11
and short weights in the trader's
bag?
Nay, nay; I will be striking you 13
with ruin for your sins;
you may eat, but you shall 14
never be satisfied,
feeling an inward void;
you may store, but you shall
never save,
and what you save I let the
sword sweep off;
you may sow, but you shall 15
never reap;
you may crush olives, but you
shall never get oil;
you may make vintage, but you
shall drink no wine.
For you follow the customs of 16
Omri,
and all the practices of Ahab's
house,
living by their policy;
so I make you a horror,
and your folk a scorn,
to bear the derision of pagans."
- Alas for us, alas! 7
As when the fruit is gathered,
and the vintage gleaned,
there is no bunch of grapes to
eat,
no choice morsel of a fig,
so the devout have vanished 9
from the land,
not an honest soul remains:
everyone lurks for bloodshed,
each man preys upon his fellow.
They have quick fingers for foul 3
play;
the judge must handle a bribe,
the high official acts as he
pleases,
and between them they baffle
justice.
The best of them are no better 4
than briars,
the straightest are like thorns
twisted in a hedge.

- Their hour of punishment is
coming;
it will be wrack and ruin.
- 5 Never trust your fellow,
never confide in a friend;
keep your secret close
from the wife of your own
bosom.
- 6 For sons insult their fathers,
girls defy their mothers,
daughters-in-law defy their
mothers-in-law,
and a man's household are his
enemies.
- 7 As for me, I will look out for the
Eternal,
I will await my saviour God;
my God will aid me.
- 8 Exult not over me, my ene-
mies;
though I fall, I rise,
though I sit in darkness, the
Eternal is my light.
- 9 For my sin against him,
the Eternal's anger I must
bear,
until he takes my part
and vindicates my right;
he will bring me out to light,
and I shall see him triumph-
ing.
- 10 My foes shall be confounded at
the sight;
"Where is your God?" they
sneer to-day,
but then my eyes will gloat on
them,
crushed underfoot like muddy
clay.
- 11 The day comes for your walls to
be mended,
the day for frontiers to be far
extended,
- 12 the day when folk come home to
you
from Assyria and from Egypt,
- from Egypt even to the Eu-
phrates,
from sea to sea, from range to
range,
though all the world lies deso- 13
late
in retribution for its pagan
ways.
- O shepherd, guide thy people, 14
thine own flock,
so lonely, lonely like a wild
patch
within a garden.
Let Bashan and let Gilcad be
their pasture
as in days of old;
and grant us to behold 15
wonders as at thy coming out of
Egypt.
- Let the nations despair of their 16
night,
at the sight!
Let them cover their mouths,
struck dumb and deaf,
let them grovel in the dust like 17
serpents,
crawling things,
and creep out trembling from
their holes,
in terror before thee!
- Who is a God like thee?—for- 18
giving sins
and passing over wrong,
in the survivors of thy folk,
not holding to thine anger for all
time,
delighting to be merciful;
thou wilt have pity upon us 19
again,
and wash off our iniquities.
Thou wilt sink all our sins deep
in the sea;
thou wilt prove thyself faithful 20
to Jacob
and loving to Abraham,
as from of old thou hast sworn to
our fathers.

NAHUM

- 1 An oracle on Nineveh: the book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.
- 2a An indignant, an avenging God is the Eternal.
- 2b the Eternal is avenging, full of wrath!
- 3c In storm and tempest he takes his way.
- 3d and clouds are the dust of his feet;
- 4 he curbs the sea and dries it up, he parches all the streams; Bashan and Karmel wither, the bloom of Lebānon fades;
- 5 mountains tremble before him, hills dissolve; the earth is laid waste before him, the world and all its dwellers.
- 6 Who can stand before his rage? who can endure the heat of his anger? His fury pours like fire, and rocks are shattered before him.
- 7 To those who wait for him the Eternal is kind, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he cares for those who trust in him,
- 8a and rescues them when the floods overflow.
- 3a The Eternal is slow to be angry and rich in love.
- 3b but never will the Eternal absolve guilt;
- 8b he makes an end of rebels, and drives his enemies into the dark;
- 9c he has not to take vengeance twice upon his foes,
- 9b he makes an end of them.
- 9a Why plot against the Eternal?
- 2c The Eternal takes vengeance on his foes, and retains anger for his enemies: they are thorns cut and dried, to be burned up like dry stubble.
- Here is the Eternal's promise: "Be the great floods ever so full, they shall ebb and vanish away; and though I have humbled you, I will humble you no more; now I will break yon yoke from your neck, and free you from your bonds. Look, there are the messenger's feet on the hills, good news and the tidings of peace! Hold festival, Judah, now do what you vowed— for never again will the villain invade you, he is finished and done with; but the Eternal restores the vine of Jacob as the vine of Israel, that the plunderers plundered, breaking down their branches."
- Did he not come from you, he with his plot against the Eternal, he and his villainous plan? So this is your doom from the Eternal: "Your name shall no more be remembered, I sweep idol and image from the temple of your god, I make your grave a dunghill."
- A shatterer has come up against you! Man your ramparts, stand to attention, summon up your strength! The shields of his heroes are crimson,

- the soldiers are clad in scarlet,
his armoured chariots gleam like
fire,
and their horses prance at the
muster;
- 4 his chariots tear through the
open country,
and gallop across the broad
spaces,
flashing like torches,
darting like lightning;
- 5 then he masses the picked men,
they charge ahead,
they rush to the wall,
and the mantlet is fixed;
- 6 the water-gates are forced,
the palace is in panic,
- 7 the queen is stripped and borne
off,
her ladies mourning like doves,
beating their breasts—
- 8 and Nineveh lies like a pool of
water,
with her folk flowing from her—
‘Stand fast, stand fast!’ they
cry, but none turns back.
- 9 Loot the silver! loot the gold!
no end to the plunder—
treasures all untold!
- 10 She is desolate, dreary, drained—
hearts are fainting, knees are
shaking,
anguish settles on all loins,
black fear on all faces.
- 11 What has become of the Lion’s
den,
the lair of the young lions,
whither the Lion withdrew,
and the whelps with none to
scare them?—
- 12 the Lion who tore enough for his
whelps
and strangled for his mates,
till he filled his lairs with prey,
his dens with mangled car-
cases.
- 13 “I attack you,” says the Lord of
hosts,
- “I send up your lair in flames,
and the sword shall devour your
cubs;
I will wipe your prey from the
earth,
and the threats of your envoys
shall be heard no more.”
- O city soaked with blood! 3
crammed with lies and plun-
der—
no end to your ravaging!
Hark! the swish of the whip, 2
hark! the thunder of wheels,
horses a-gallop, chariots hur-
tling along,
cavalry charging—the flash of 3
the sword, the gleam of the
lance,
the slain in heaps, dead bodies
piled,
no end to the corpses—men
tripping over the dead!
And all for her harlotries so 4
lavish,
the Harlot so handsome, a mis-
tress of charms;
nations she lured with her har-
lotry,
and people she bewitched.
“I attack you,” says the Lord of 5
hosts,
“I will uncover your skirts to
your face,
and expose you naked to nations
and bare to the kingdoms,
to be pelted with filth and dis- 6
graced,
to stand as a butt for de-
cision,
till all who see you shrink away: 7
“Ruined is Nineveh,” they say,
“none to lament her;
where can we find her any con-
soling?”
- Will you fare better than No of 8
Amon,
entrenched by the streams of
the Nile,
with waters around her—

- her rampart the Nile,
and waters her wall,
9 Ethiopia and Egypt her
strength,
Put and the Libyans her sup-
port?
- 10 Yet she was exiled, she went
away captive,
at every street corner her infants
were dashed to the ground;
lots were cast for her leaders,
and all her nobles put in chains.
- 11 So you too will stagger and
swoon,
you too will fly for refuge from
the foe;
- 12 all your forts are but fig-trees—
your defenders the ripe
figs—
shake them, they drop into the
hungry mouth!
- 13 The men inside you are but
women!
Your bars are burned by fire,
the gates to your land fly open
in front of your foe.
- 14 Draw water for your siege,
strengthen your defences:
- down with you to the mud,
trample the clay,
all hands to the brick-mould!
But there will the fire devour 15
you,
the sword will cut you down!
Multiply men like locusts,
multiply men like grasshoppers,
let your traders be more than 16
the stars of the heaven!—
yet locusts spread their wings,
and your half-breeds are like 17
locusts,
your officers like grasshoppers,
huddling in hedges when the
day is cold,
and flying when the sun is up,
flying none knows where.
- Assyria, your rulers are asleep, 18
your lords slumber in death!
Your people are scattered all
over the hills,
with none to rally them.
You are shattered past repair, 19
wounded to the death.
All who are told of you clap
their hands over you;
for whom have you not wronged
unceasingly?

HABAKKUK

- 1 The oracle, the vision of the prophet Habakkuk.
- 5 Look, faithless creatures, gaze and be agast!
for a deed is to be done in your day
that you would not believe, if you were told it.
- 6 I am rousing the Chaldæans, that fierce and fiery race, who march the broad earth over to seize homes not their own;
- 7 dire they are and dreadful, a destructive power,
- 8 swifter than leopards their horses,
keener their cavalry than wolves by night,
they swoop from far away like vultures pouncing on their prey;
- 9 their host swarms up for havoc, eager and onward, sweeping up prisoners like sand;
- 10 they scoff at kings and rulers they deride;
a fortress is a sport to them, they pile their mounds of earth and capture it—
- 11 then forward like the wind!
- I would put my plea before my God.
- 2 O thou Eternal, how long shall I cry,
and thou wilt never hear?
I complain to thee of wrongs, and yet thou wilt not help.
- 3 Why make me gaze on misery?
Why must I look on at oppression?
Under mine eyes outrage and injury go on,
till strife is stirred and faction.
- 4 And so Law is benumbed, justice is never in action—
for evil men hamper the just, till justice goes awry.
- Art thou not the Eternal from of old,
my God, my Majestic One?—
thou diest not.
- Are they a judgment from thee, O Eternal,
messengers of chastisement?
Thine eyes are too pure to rest
on evil,
thou canst not look on at oppression.
- Why then look on at ruthless men?
- Why then be silent when the impious
are swallowing up the good?
Thou hast made men like fishes
in the sea,
like swarms without a chief;
the impious hook them, haul
them up,
sweep them into the net,
and catch them in their seine,
shouting for joy;
in honour of their net they sacrifice,
and they burn incense to their seine,
for yielding them so rich a catch,
and food so plentiful.
- Are they to go on drawing the sword,
murdering peoples without pity?
- On my watch-tower I will stand,
at my post on the turret,
watching to see what he will say to me,
what answer he will offer to my plea.
- Then answered the Eternal,
“Take down this oracle on your tablets
plainly, that one may read it at a glance.
The vision has its own appointed hour,
it is ripening, it will flower;

if it be long, then wait,
for it is sure, and it will not be
late.

- 4 'Yon impious man! his powers
shall fail him;
the good man lasts and lives as
he is faithful.

- 5 Besides that wine beguiles him,
he is a braggart,
restless, rapacious as the grave,
like Death, he never has enough;
he would sweep all nations in,
he would rake in every race.

- 6 Shall not they all taunt him in
chorus,
and shout this satire at him?—

Woe to him who heaps up
plunder (ah, how long!),
loading himself with what he
must repay!

- 7 Shall not your victims suddenly
arise,
and men awake to make you
shake—
then you shall be their prey?

- 8 Many a nation you have har-
ried,
so the rest shall harry you,
for the blood you shed, for your
devastation
of earth and every town and
nation.

- 9 Woe to him who stores ill-gotten
gains,
seeking to set his nest on high,
safe from the clutches of calam-
ity!

- 10 You have planned the down-
come of your house
by cutting off many a nation—
so have you forfeited your life.

- 12 Woe to him who builds a city up
by bloodshed,
founds a town on crime!

- 11 For the stone shall cry from the
wall,

and the lath from the woodwork
echo the call.

Has not the Lord of hosts or- 13
dained,

that "the toil of the nations
ends in smoke,"

and "peoples wear themselves
out for naught":

"'tis the knowledge of the Eter- 14
nal's glory that shall fill the
earth,

as waters cover the bed of the
sea."

Woe to him who makes his 15
neighbours drain the goblet
of his fury,

and makes them drunk, to gloat
on their disgrace!

Drink yourself now and stagger, 16
for the cup in the Eternal's hand
comes round to you,

and shame, not glory, gluts you;
your ravaging of Lebânon shall 17
crush you,

your slaughtering of beasts shall
break you—

yes and the blood you shed,
your devastation
of earth and every town and
nation.

Woe to him who prays a wooden 19
thing to "waken,"

bids a dumb stone "rise"!

Can that give any guidance,
cased in gold and silver as it lies,
no breath of life within?

What use is it to carve an image, 18
to mould an image—a false
guide?

What use for any moulder to
rely on that,
fashioning idols dumb?

But the Eternal is within his 20
sacred temple;

hush, all men, he is here!" * * *

A prayer of the prophet Habak- 3
kuk, in dithyrambic meas-
ure.

- 2 We have heard thee, O Eternal,
we have seen thee in action.
Strike now, for the years are
passing,
reveal thyself now as the years
go by,
amid thy wrath remember to be
merciful.
- 3 God comes from Teman,
the Majestic One from Paran
hills,
his splendour over all the sky,
his glory filling all the earth;
4 his radiance is a lightning blaze,
on either side flash rays
and there he veils his might.
- 5 Before him Pestilence strides,
behind him the burning Plague.
- 6 At his step the earth is shaken,
at his look nations are scattered,
the ancient hills are shattered,
mountains of old sink low,
where he marched long ago,
7 searing the tents of Kushan.
shaking the curtained tents of
Midian.
- 15 Over the sea thou stridest with
thy steeds;
the mighty waters surge.
- 8 Art angry with the hills, O thou
Eternal?
Art wrathful at the sea,
that thou art storming on thy
steeds,
upon thy chariots in triumph?
- 9 Thy bow [[the clans bound by
an oath]] thou barest,
and the land is torn with
streams,
- 10 the hills writhe at thy sight,
floods pour down from the skies,
the torrents roar,
- 11 the sun forgets to rise,
the moon to move,
before the flash of thy darting
arrows,

before the sheen of the light-
ning, thy lance.
Thou tramplest earth in fury, 12
thou art threshing the peoples in
thine anger,
thou art abroad to rescue thine 13
own nation,
to save thy chosen.
Thou hast unroofed the enemy's
house,
hast laid it bare to the founda-
tions;
thy spears have pierced the war- 14
rior chiefs
who stormed out to scatter us—
their joy was to murder us [[poor
folk in hiding]].

The sound of this sets our heart 16
shaking,
we listen with lips a-quiver,
our very bones are breaking,
and as we stand we shiver;
yet calmly we await the day of
doom
that dawns upon the folk who
would assail us.

[[Though the fig-tree may not 17
blossom,
though no fruit is on the vine,
though the olive crop has failed,
though the fields give us no food,
though the folds have lost their
flocks,
and in the stalls no cattle lie,
yet in the Eternal we will find 18
our joy,
we will rejoice in the God who
saves us.
The Lord, the Eternal, is our 19
strength,
he makes our feet sure as the
feet of hinds,
helps us to keep our footing on
the heights.

*From the Choirmaster's collection.
To a string accompaniment.]]*

ZEPHANIAH

- 1 The message of the Eternal
which came to Zephaniah the
son of Kushi, the son of Ged-
aliah, the son of Amariah, the
son of Hezekiah, during the
reign of Josiah son of Amon,
king of Judah.
- 2 I will make a clean sweep of the
earth,
the Eternal declares,
3 a clean sweep of man and beast,
of bird and fish
[[idols and ungodly men,
a clean sweep of mankind from
earth]].
- 4 I will strike at Judah and at all
the dwellers in Jerusalem;
I will wipe out the last trace of
Baal from this place,
and the very name of idol-priest-
lings,
- 5 those who bow upon the roof to
the stars in heaven,
the devotees of the Eternal who
swear by Milkom.
- 6 those who give up following the
Eternal,
and those who seek not the Eter-
nal, who never consult him;
- 8 I will punish the officials and the
royal house,
who by their violence and fraud
enrich the palace;
- 9 I will punish all who leap across
the threshold,
and all arrayed in foreign dress.
- 10 Hark! a scream from the Fish-
gate,
a wail from the New Town!
Havoc on the Heights,
11 a wail from the Hollow!
For all the traders are undone,
the merchants are wiped out.
- 12 For I am searching Jerusalem
with a lamp,
to punish careless men, living at
ease,
- who think the Eternal never
does anything—
so their goods shall be plun- 13
dered,
their houses laid in ruins
[[they shall not live in the houses
they build,
nor drink wine from the vine-
yards they plant]].
- Hush, 'tis the Lord the Eternal! 7
The Eternal's day is at hand!
The Eternal has ready a victim
for sacrifice,
and his guests are all prepared.
The Eternal's great day is near, 14
near, speeding apace!
The Eternal's bitter day is near,
rushing on like a warrior!—
a day of wrath, that day, of woe 15
and anguish,
a day of stress and distress,
darkness and gloom,
a day of cloud and thunder-
cloud,
a day of trumpet-blast and 16
battle-cry
against towns fortified and ram-
parts high,
when men must grope like blind 17
men, desperately,
because against the Eternal they
rebelled;
their blood shall be scattered
like dust,
their flesh like dung;
no silver and no gold avails 18
to protect them on the day of
the Eternal's anger,
when the fire of his fury con-
sumes the whole earth;
for a full end, aye a fearful
end,
will the Eternal make of all on
earth.
- O shameless nation, huddle and 2
cower,

- 2 ere you become like drifting
 chaff,
 ere the Eternal's blazing anger
 breaks on you
 [[ere the day of the Eternal's
 anger breaks on you]].
- 3 [[Seek the Eternal, all you
 humble folk,
 who do his bidding.
 seek to be honest, seek to be
 humble;
 perhaps you may be hidden
 on the day of the Eternal's
 wrath.]]
- 4 For Gaza shall be deserted, Ash-
 kelon desolate,
 Ashdod stormed by noon, Ekron
 cut to pieces.
- 5 Woe betide the dwellers on the
 coast, the Cretan settlers,
 for the Eternal's decree is
 against you:
 "I will destroy you, O land of
 the Philistines [[Canaan]],
 till not an inhabitant is left,
- 6 till you are turned into huts for
 shepherds,
 into folds for flocks,
- 7 that couch by night in the
 houses of Ashkelon,
 and pasture beside Ekron
 [[and the sea-coast shall belong
 to those left of Judæa,
 for the Eternal their God will
 remember them and turn
 their fortunes]]."
- 8 [[I have heard the taunts of
 Moab
 and the Ammonites reviling,
 taunting my own people
 and vaunting their gains of land.
- 9 As I live! the Eternal declares,
 the God of Israel,
 Moab shall be like a Sodom,
 and the Ammonites like Go-
 morrah,
 naught but weeds and saltpits,
 desolate for ever;
 those left of my people shall
 plunder them,
- the survivors of my nation shall
 seize them.
 So shall they be paid back for 10
 their pride,
 for vaunting and taunting the
 people of the Lord of
 hosts.]]
- And you too, Ethiopians, 12
 you shall be slain by his sword.
 And he will strike to the north 13
 and destroy Assyria;
 he will make Nineveh desolate,
 dry as the desert;
 cattle couch in her midst, 14
 all manner of beasts,
 bitterns and pelicans
 roost on her pillars,
 owls hoot in her windows,
 ravens on her doorsteps.
- And this was the teeming city 15
 that sat so secure,
 that thought herself supreme,
 the only power!
 What a ruin she lies, a lair for
 beasts!
- Passers-by all hiss at her and
 shake their fists.
 [[Grimly will the Eternal assail 11
 them all;
 for he disables all gods of the
 earth,
 till every pagan shore does
 homage to himself.]]
- Woe betide that tyrannous city, 3
 so defiant, so defiled!
 She is deaf to my voice, she will 2
 take no correction;
 she has no faith in the Eternal,
 she has never gone to her God;
 her officials within her are lions 3
 that growl,
 her judges are wolves on the
 evening prowl,
 they leave not a bone till the
 morning;
 her prophets are reckless, faith- 4
 less creatures,
 her priests have profaned what
 is sacred,
 have wrested the Law.

- 5 But in her the Eternal remains upright,
 he never will do wrong;
 morning by morning does his justice dawn,
 and his light never fails [[though the wicked are shameless]].
- 6 I have wiped out nations, ruining their ramparts,
 I have emptied their streets, till none walks there;
 their towns are laid waste—not a soul left to inhabit them.
- 7 Surely now, I thought, she will fear me,
 she will take correction,
 she will never lose sight of my orders.
 But all the more they gave themselves
 to sheer depravity.
- 8 Wait for me, then, says the Eternal,
 wait till the day of my challenge;
 for I mean to muster the nations
 and assemble all the realms,
 to vent my wrath upon them,
 the full heat of my anger,
 for the fire of my fury shall consume the whole earth.
- 9 [[Then will I grant the peoples a clean speech,
 that all may call on the Eternal's name,
 and worship him with one consent;
- 10 for from beyond the streams of Nile
 my worshippers shall come,
 bringing me offerings even from Patras]].
- 11 But on that day you need have no despair
 for all your misdeeds of rebellion;
 for I will clear out from your midst
 the arrogant and haughty men—
- no more vaunting on my sacred hill!
 And I will leave within you 12
 a lowly, little people;
 and those who are left of Israel 13
 shall rely on the Eternal then
 and commit no evil,
 telling no lies, uttering no fraud;
 they can pasture and lie down,
 no one to molest them.
- Sing, O maiden Sion, 14
 shout, O Israel,
 rejoice, exult with all your heart,
 maiden Jerusalem.
 The Eternal has routed your 15
 foes,
 he has driven off your enemies;
 Israel's King is in your midst,
 you shall have no more trouble.
 [[On that day shall Jerusalem be 16
 told, "Fear not,
 droop not your hands, O Sion."]]
 The Eternal your God is in your 17
 midst,
 a warrior to the rescue;
 he thrills with joy over you,
 renews his love,
 exults with a festal song:
 "I will take away your dis- 18
 grace,
 I will remove your reproach;
 I will deal with all your oppres- 19
 sors,
 and gather your outcasts,
 rescue the lame,
 lifting them out of their shame
 to world-wide praise and fame,
 when I gather you home, 20
 when I do good to you;
 for I will grant you praise and fame
 among all nations of the world,
 when I turn your fortunes under
 your own eyes,
 the Eternal promises."

HAGGAI

- 1 In the second year of king Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the Eternal spoke by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to the high priest Joshua the son of Jehozadak. "A message from the Lord of hosts! This people declare that the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Eternal! And is it a time for you to be living in panelled houses of your own, when this House is lying in ruins? Come (says the Lord of hosts), consider how you have fared. You have sown much and harvested little, you eat and yet you never have enough, 'you drink but you never can drink your fill, you clothe yourselves but you cannot keep warm, and he who earns a wage puts it into a bag with holes. Consider how you have been faring, says the Lord of hosts. Now then, go up to the hill-country and fetch timber to rebuild the House, that I may take pleasure in it and see myself honoured, says the Eternal. You expected a rich harvest, and it came to little; even what you brought home I spoiled. And why? Because (the Lord of hosts declares) my House still lies in ruins while each of you takes pleasure in his own house. Hence the sky withholds its dew and the earth withholds its produce; I have called for drought upon the land and hills, upon the grain and wine and oil, upon all that the ground yields, upon man and beast and all their labours."
- 12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and the high-priest Joshua the son of Jehozadak and all the rest of the people listened to the voice of the Eternal their God and to the words of the prophet Haggai, as the Eternal had sent him to them; the people did reverence to the Eternal [[and Haggai the messenger of the Eternal, as commissioned by the Eternal, assured the people that the Eternal was with them]], and the Eternal roused the spirit of the governor of Judah, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and the spirit of the high-priest Joshua the son of Jehozadak, and the spirit of all the rest of the people, so that they went to work upon the house of the Lord of hosts, their God, on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month.
- In the second year of king Darius, on the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the Eternal sent these orders by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to the high-priest Joshua the son of Jehozadak, and to the rest of the people: "Who is left among you that saw this House in its former splendour? And what do you think of it now? You think nothing of it? Yet courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Eternal! Courage, Joshua son of Jehozadak, high-priest! Courage, all you natives, says the Eternal! Courage, do your work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts [[the very promise I made to you when you left Egypt]], my spirit still remains among you, have no fear. For this is what the Lord of hosts declares: Very soon I will shake the sky,

- the earth, the sea, and the dry
 7 land, and shake all nations till
 the treasures of all nations are
 brought hither and my House
 here filled with splendour (says
 8 the Lord of hosts). Mine is the
 silver, mine the gold, the Lord
 9 of hosts declares; the later
 splendour of this House shall
 outshine the former (says the
 Lord of hosts), and I will make
 this place prosper, says the Lord
 of hosts.”
- 10 In the second year of king
 Darius, on the twenty-fourth
 day of the ninth month, the
 Eternal sent this ‘message from
 the Lord of hosts’ by the
 11 prophet Haggai: “Ask the
 12 priests to decide this point. If
 a man is carrying consecrated
 flesh in the skirt of his robe, and
 if his skirt touches bread or
 pottage or wine or oil or any
 food, will that become conse-
 13 crated?” The priests answered,
 “No.” Then Haggai asked,
 “And if a man who is unclean
 by contact with a corpse touches
 any of these things, will it be-
 come unclean?” The priests
 14 answered, “Yes.” Then said
 Haggai, “So with this people,
 so with this nation in my sight,
 says the Eternal—so with all
 their life; what they offer yonder
 15 is unclean. But look ahead
 from this day onwards. How
 did you fare in the past, before
 one stone was laid upon another
 16 in the temple of the Lord? When
 a man went to a heap of eight
 bushels of grain, there would be
 only four; if he went to draw off
 fifty barrels from the wine-
 trough, there would be no more
 than twenty. I was punishing 17
 you with blight and mildew and
 hail, in all your labours, though
 you would not turn to me, says
 the Eternal. But look ahead, 18
 from this day onwards [[from
 the twenty-fourth day of the
 ninth month]], start from the
 day when the foundation of the
 temple of the Eternal was laid.
 Will your seed be lying idle in 19
 the barns? Will the vine, the
 fig-tree, the pomegranate, and
 olive still fail to bear fruit?
 No, from now on I will bless
 you with prosperity.” On the 20
 twenty-fourth day of the month
 a second message from the Eter-
 nal came to Haggai: “Tell 21
 Zerubbabel the governor of
 Judah that I will shake sky and
 earth, I will overthrow royal 22
 thrones, and shatter the power
 of the empires of the nations;
 I will overthrow chariots and
 those who ride in them, and
 horses and their riders shall be
 struck down, each falling by
 the sword of his fellow. But 23
 on that day, the Lord of hosts
 declares, I will take you, O
 Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,
 my servant, and highly honour
 you, for I have chosen you
 as mine, the Lord of hosts de-
 clares.”

ZECHARIAH

- 1 In the eighth month, in the second year of king Darius, this message from the Eternal came to the prophet Zechariah son of Barakiah, the son of Iddo.
- 3 "Tell them this from the Lord of hosts, 'Turn to me, that I may turn to you, and be not like your fathers': this from 2 the Lord of hosts. The Eternal was indignant with your fathers, 4 and the former prophets proclaimed to them this message from the Lord of hosts: 'Turn back from your evil ways and from your evil deeds'; but they would neither listen nor attend to me, the Lord of hosts declares. Yet did not my words and the decrees with which I charged my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers, till they turned back crying, 'As the Lord of hosts determined to deal with us in accordance with our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us?' Now your fathers, where are they? But are there not always prophets?"
- 7 On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month [[the month of Shebat]], in the second year of king Darius, this message from the Eternal came to the prophet Zechariah son of Barakiah, the son of Iddo. It was night, and in a dream I saw a man [[riding on a chestnut horse]] standing among the myrtles in the glen, and behind him riders on horses that were chestnut, black, sorrel, and 9 white. "What are these, sir?" I asked. And the angel who was talking to me said, "I will let you see what these are." So the man among the myrtles replied, "These are the couriers whom the Eternal has sent to patrol the earth." Whereupon 11 they answered the man who stood among the myrtles, "We have patrolled the earth, and the whole earth lies quiet and at peace." Then the angel 12 broke out, "O Lord of hosts, how long will it be till thou hast pity on Jerusalem and on the towns of Judah? For seventy years now thou hast been wroth with them." The Eternal answered the angel who was talking to me, and his words were kindly, reassuring. So 14 the angel who was talking to me said to me, "Proclaim this message from the Lord of hosts: 'I am stirred, deeply stirred, on behalf of Jerusalem and Sion; I 15 am deeply wroth with the arrogant nations. For while I was slightly angry with Israel, they have pushed my anger for their own evil ends. Therefore, the Lord of hosts declares, I am turning to have compassion upon Jerusalem; my house shall be rebuilt within it, the Lord of hosts declares, and the builder shall stretch his line throughout Jerusalem.' Proclaim this also 17 from the Lord of hosts, that my towns shall again overflow with prosperity, and the Eternal shall again console Sion and delight in Jerusalem." I raised 18 my eyes and looked—there were four horns! So I asked the 19 angel who was talking to me, "What are these?" "These," he answered, "are the horns that routed Judah [[Israel]] and Jerusalem." Then the Eternal 20 showed me four blacksmiths. "What have they come to do?" 21

I asked. And he replied, "Yon horns routed Judah, till it could not raise its head; but these have come to demolish them, to strike down the horns of the nations who raised their horns to rout the land of Judah."

- 2 I raised my eyes and looked—
there was a man with a measuring
2 line in his hand! I asked
him where he was going, and he
answered, "To measure Jerusalem,
to see how broad it has to
3 be and how long." The angel
who was talking to me stood
still, but another angel came
4 forward and said to him, "Run
and tell that young man, Jerusalem
shall lie open, like villages
unwalled, so numerous are its
5 citizens and cattle to be. For I,
the Eternal declares, I will be a
wall of fire all round her and,
for splendour, I will be within
her.
- 6 Up, up, flee from the land of the
north,
for I will gather you from the
four winds of heaven—
the Eternal promises;
- 7 away with you, escape to Sion,
you who are in Babylon!
- 8 As for the nations who have
plundered you,
the Lord of hosts declares
(for he who touches you
touches the apple of the Eternal's eye),
- 9 I will swing my hand over them,
and they shall be plundered by
their victims."
(So shall you know the Lord of
hosts has sent me
to proclaim his glory.)
- 10 "Sing and rejoice, O maiden
Sion,
for I am coming, the Eternal
promises,
I will dwell among you."
- 11 Many a nation then shall join
the Eternal

and become his people,
as he dwells among you.
(So shall you know the Lord of
hosts

has sent me to you.)
The Eternal shall take Judah 12
for his very own
within the sacred land,
once more shall he delight in
Jerusalem.

Hush, mortal men, in presence 13
of the Eternal!

He moves from his abode in
heaven.

Then he showed me the high- 3
priest Joshua confronted by the
angel of the Eternal. The Ad-
versary was standing by, to
accuse him, but the angel of the
Eternal said to the Adversary,
"The Eternal rebuke you, O 2
Adversary! Yes, the Eternal
who delights in Jerusalem re-
buke you! Is not this man a
charred stick pulled out of the
fire?" Meanwhile Joshua was 3
standing in front of the angel,
clad in dirty clothes. So the
angel told the attendants to
take off the dirty clothes and
robe him in robes of state,
adding, "Put a clean turban on 5
his head." Then a clean turban
was placed on his head and he
was robed in robes of state, with
clean clothes; and the angel of
the Eternal, standing by, said
to him, "See, I have made your 4b
iniquity pass from you." The 6
angel of the Eternal also ad-
dressed Joshua thus: "The 7
Lord of hosts declares that if
you will follow my directions
and do your duty to me, you
shall rule my house and control
my sacred courts, and I will
give you the right of access to
this company of mine. Listen, 8
O Joshua, O high-priest. You
and your fellows who attend
you are men of good omen, for

I am bringing forward my servant the Scion. Look at the jewel I have set before Joshua, a single stone with seven facets; on it I will engrave my servant's name, the Lord of hosts declares, and in a single day I will remove the iniquity of the land. On that day, the Lord of hosts declares, every one of you shall invite his neighbour to sit under the vine and the fig-tree."

4 Once more the angel who talked to me roused me, like a man roused from sleep. He asked me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see a lampstand there, all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it and seven lamps round it, and seven pipes to the lamps on the top of it; also two olive-trees beside it, one to the right of the bowl and the other to the left." Then I asked the angel who talked to me, "What are these, sir?" The angel answered, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, sir."

6a Then he replied, "These seven 10bare the eyes of the Eternal; they sweep all over the earth." I asked him, "What are these two olive-trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?" [[I asked him a second time, "What are these two olive branches, held by the two golden spouts that empty oil into the golden bowl?"]] He answered, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, sir." Then he replied, "These are the sources of the oil of bliss, the two men who stand before the Lord of all the earth."

5 Once more I raised my eyes and looked—there was a flying scroll! He asked me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see a flying scroll thirty feet long and fifteen feet broad." "This," he said

to me, "is the curse that is to scour all the land. How long the thief has gone unpunished! How long the perjurer has gone unpunished! So I will make the curse fly far, the Lord of hosts declares, till it enters the house of the thief and the house of him who perjures by my name; it shall cling inside the house and consume it, timber and stones and all."

Then the angel who talked to 5 me came forward and said to me, "Raise your eyes and look at this barrel which is emerging." I said, "What is it?" He answered, "This barrel which you see emerging is their iniquity all over the land." Then 7 a disc of lead was lifted, and there sat a woman inside the barrel! "This," he said, "is 8 Sin"; and he pushed her down inside the barrel and flung the leaden cover over the opening. Then, raising my eyes, I looked 9 and saw two women coming out, with the wind in their wings—they had wings like the wings of a stork—and they lifted the barrel high between earth and heaven. I said to the angel 10 who talked to me, "Where are they carrying the barrel?" He replied, "To the land of Shinar, to build a shed for it; and whenever the shed is ready, the barrel shall be placed there on its own base."

Once more I raised my eyes 6 and looked—there were four chariots coming out between two mountains, two mountains of bronze! The first chariot 2 had chestnut horses, the second had black horses, the third had 3 white horses, and the fourth had dappled horses. Then I 4 spoke to the angel who talked to me; I asked, "What are these,

- 5 sir?" The angel answered, "They are going out to the four winds of heaven, after they have presented themselves before the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 The black horses go to the north country, the white horses go to the east, the dappled to the south, and the chestnuts to the west country." They were eager to be off and patrol the earth; so he said, "Off with you, patrol the earth." And they
- 8 patrolled the earth. Then he called to me, "Look, those who go to the north country will satisfy my anger against the north country."
- 9 This word from the Eternal came to me: "Take the silver and the gold offered by Heldai, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Josiah
- 11 the son of Zephaniah, the exiles who have arrived from Babylon, in order to make a crown, and place the crown upon the head of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel. Tell them this from the
- 12 Lord of hosts: Here is the man called the Scion! He shall flourish where he is rooted, and he it is who shall rebuild the
- 13 temple of the Eternal; he shall wear the royal authority and sit enthroned to govern; Joshua shall be priest at his right hand, and both shall hold council in
- 14 harmony. The crown shall lie inside the temple of the Eternal as a memorial to Heldai, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Josiah the son of Zephaniah."
- 4 This is the word of the Eternal for Zerubbabel:
- 6b "Not by fighting, not by force, but by my spirit!" so the Lord of hosts declares.
- 7 "What are you, O mighty mountain? Be level ground before Zerubbabel!

Then shall he bring out the copingstone amid shouts of 'Splendid, splendid!'"

This message from the Eternal also came to me:

"As the hands of Zerubbabel 9 laid the foundations of this house,

so shall his hands finish it (showing you that the Lord of hosts did send me to you). For any who despised the day 10a of small things

shall rejoice then to behold the final plumb-line in Zerubbabel's hands.

Those who are far away shall 6 also come 15

and work at the rebuilding of the Eternal's temple (so shall you know the Eternal did send me to you).

If you listen carefully to the voice of the Eternal your God. . ."

In the fourth year of king 7 Darius this message from the Eternal came to Zechariah, on the fourth day of the ninth month [[that is, Chislev]]. The 2 town of Bethel had sent Elsarazer, Regem-melek, and their men to propitiate the Eternal, to 3 ask the priests of the temple of the Lord of hosts and the prophets, "Are we to mourn and fast during the fifth month, as we have been doing all these years?" Then this message 4 from the Lord of hosts came to me: "Tell all the laity and the 5 priests: 'When you fasted and wailed during the fifth month and the seventh month all these seventy years, was it for me, for me, that you were fasting? When you eat and drink, do 6 you not eat for yourselves and drink for yourselves? When 7 Jerusalem was inhabited and at

- peace, with her towns round her and the Negeb and the lowlands inhabited, did not the Eternal send this loud message
- 9 by the former prophets, these orders from the Lord of hosts?—administer genuine justice, practise kindness and compassion
- 10 towards each other, oppress not the widow, the orphan, the foreigner, or the poor, and never plot evil in your hearts against
- 11 each other. But they would not listen, they turned their backs stubbornly and shut their ears, that they might not hear
- 12 his word; they made their hearts like adamant, lest they should hear the directions and the orders which the Lord of hosts had inspired the former prophets to deliver. So heavy
- 13 wrath fell from the Lord of hosts. As they would not listen when he called, so I would not listen when they called, says
- 14 the Lord of hosts; I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations, nations strange to them, and the land they left lay desolate—not a foot stirred in it, for that delightful land
- 8 was laid desolate.’ ” Also these messages from the Eternal came
- 2 to me: “I am stirred, deeply stirred, on behalf of Sion, the Lord of hosts declares, stirred with deep indignation upon her
- 3 behalf.” “I will return to Sion, the Lord of hosts declares, and dwell within Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called ‘The faithful city’ and the hill of the Lord
- 4 of hosts called ‘The sacred hill.’ ” “Old men and women shall sit once more in the open spaces of Jerusalem, the Lord of hosts declares, each with staff in
- 5 hand, so old are they; and the open spaces shall be full of boys and girls playing there.”
- “To those left of the people 6 nowadays this may sound impossible, the Lord of hosts declares, but shall it be impossible for me?” “I am now to 7 rescue my people, the Lord of hosts declares, from the land of the east and the land of the west, and bring them home to 8 dwell within Jerusalem, where they shall be my people and I will be their God, loyally and faithfully.” “Strengthen your 9 hands, the Lord of hosts declares, you who in these days have been so encouraged by the prophets, ever since the day when the foundation of the house of the Lord of hosts was laid [[for the building of the temple]]. Till then no gain was 10 to be made by any man or beast; none who went out or in had any peace from his foe, for I set every man against his neighbour. But now, the Lord of 11 hosts declares, I will not deal with those who are left of my people as in former days; for I 12 will sow peace and prosperity, the vine shall bear fruit, the ground shall yield its produce, and the skies drop dew—blessings that I will make lasting for those left of my people. And as the nations once reckoned 13 you ‘accursed,’ so I will rescue you, O house of Judah [[and house of Israel]], and you shall be an example of ‘blessing.’ Fear not, strengthen your hands. For the Lord of hosts 14 declares: As I planned to do evil to you, when your fathers vexed me, and as then I did not relent, so in these days have I 15 changed my mind, the Lord of hosts declares, to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Fear not! This is what 16 you must do; let every man tell

- the truth, in dealing with his neighbour, let your decisions in court be true and for the common good, plot no evil in your hearts against one another, and never give yourselves to any perjury—for all these things I hate, says the Eternal.” Then this message from the Eternal came to me: “The Lord of hosts declares that the fast of the fourth month, the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth shall become a joy and delight to the house of Judah, cheerful feasts. Only love to be honest and peaceable.” The Lord of hosts declares: “One day peoples and citizens of great cities shall come; citizens of one city shall go to another, saying, ‘Let us make haste to propitiate the Eternal and to seek the Lord of hosts’—‘Yes, we will go.’ Many a people and mighty nation shall come to seek the Eternal in Jerusalem, and to propitiate the Eternal. In those days, the Lord of hosts declares, ten men from nations of every language shall seize the skirt of a single Jew, saying, ‘We will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”
- 9 The oracle of the Eternal’s word.
The Eternal is in the land of Hadrach,
and Damascus is his goal,
for Aram’s towns belong to the Eternal
[[like all the clans of Israel]].
- 2 Hamath also on the borders,
Tyre and Sidon for all their shrewdness.
- 3 Tyre has built herself a fortress,
stored up silver like dust,
and gold like dirt on the street;
- but the Eternal will strip her, 4
hurl her ramparts into the sea,
and she shall be consumed by fire.
Ashkelon shall see it and be 5
scared,
Gaza shall writhe with anguish,
Ekron’s hopes are dashed,
Gaza loses her king,
and Ashkelon lies unpeopled;
a half-breed race shall rule in 6
Ashdod.
“So I wipe out the pride of the Philistines,
so I stop them from drinking 7
blood,
from eating food detestable;
they too shall be a remnant for our God,
like any sept in Judah,
the Ekronites like Jebusites.
I will camp round my house 8
like a guard,
to let none march across it;
no invader shall again march through my folk,
for I am on the watch now.”
- Rejoice indeed, O maiden Sion, 9
shout aloud, dear Jerusalem.
Here comes your King,
triumphant and victorious,
riding humbly on an ass,
on the foal of an ass!
He banishes all chariots from 10
Ephraim,
war-horses from Jerusalem,
and battle-bows;
his words make peace for nations,
his sway extends from sea to sea,
from the Euphrates to the ends of earth.
- “And for the sake of your blood- 11
bond with me
I set your captive exiles free
from their dungeon [[which has no water]].

- 12 Come back to your safe home,
poor prisoners, with your hopes;
I compensate you now twofold.
- 13 For I have bent Judah as my
bow,
and fitted Ephraim like arrows
to the string;
I will ply you like a hero's sword,
and urge your sons on, Sion,
against the sons of Greece."
- 14 Then shall the Eternal be seen
above them,
speeding his shafts like light-
ning;
the Eternal blows a bugle blast
and marches from the south
with whirlwinds.
- 15 Protected by the Lord of hosts,
they shall prevail,
stamp on the sons of Greece,
drink up their blood like wine,
as full of it as altar-bowls.
- 16 Their God the Eternal on that
day
makes them victorious;
he shepherds them on his own
land
[[like jewels for a crown]]
- 17 so fair, so fertile
[[Corn makes the young men
flourish,
and new wine the maidens]].
- 10 Ask the Eternal for rain in
spring,
ask the Eternal, who makes
lightning flash,
who gives men winter rain,
with grass on all their fields.
- 2 What idols say is useless,
the sorcerer's vision is a lie,
dreamers are but deceivers,
idle their promises;
'tis they who make the people
stray like sheep,
wandering for lack of any shep-
herd.
- 3 "My anger is hot against the
shepherds,
- and I will punish the leaders.
The Lord of hosts will visit his
poor sheep
and make them splendid steeds
for his campaign
[[they shall produce men to be 4
supports and stays,
men to be battle-bows and
rulers]];
together shall they trample 5
down the strong,
like dirt upon the street,
fighting, with the Eternal's aid,
till mounted foes are in dis-
may
[[I will make the house of Judah 6
strong,
and rescue the house of Joseph,
bringing them home in my com-
passion,
till they shall be as though I
never had expelled them]];
the Ephraimites shall fight like 7
heroes,
their spirits buoyant as with
wine,
while their sons look on and
rejoice,
with hearts exulting in the
Eternal.
- I will whistle for them and 8
gather them in,
for I have redeemed them,
and they shall be as numerous
as ever.
Though once I scattered them 9
among the nations,
yet in far countries shall they
remember me,
rear their children, and return.
Back from the land of Egypt 10
will I bring them,
back from Assyria will I gather
them,
and bring them home to Gilead
and Lebânon,
till there is no more room for
them;
when they pass through the 11
gulf of Suez,

- the breakers shall be struck aside,
and the Nile dried to all its
depths;
Assyria's pride shall be laid low,
and Egypt's tyranny swept
aside
- 12 [[Their strength shall lie in the
Eternal,
they glory in his name, says
the Eternal]]."
- 11 Open your doors, O Lebānon,
to let fire burn up your cedars!
2 Wail, O pine-tree,
the cedar is down
[[the glorious trees despoiled]].
Wail, O oaks of Bashan,
the thick-set forest is felled!
- 3 Hark to the shepherds deploring
their glorious pastures ruined!
Hark to the young lions roaring,
for the jungle of Jordan is
blasted!
- * * *
- 4 The Eternal said to me, "Be a
shepherd to the doomed flock,
5 whose buyers kill them and go
unpunished; their sellers say,
'Thank God, I am rich!' and
their very shepherds have no
6 pity on them [[For I will no
longer spare the dwellers on
earth, the Eternal declares; no,
I will hand over mankind, every
nation of them, to their shep-
herds, putting them into the
hands of their kings, who shall
shatter the earth, and I will
not secure it from their vio-
lence]]."
- 7 So I became a shep-
herd to the doomed flock, aban-
doned to hucksters. I took two
staffs; one I called "Goodwill,"
the other I called "Union." I
was a shepherd to the flock
8 [[and in a single month I deposed
three shepherds]]. But I lost
patience with the flock; they
9 detested me. So I said, "I will
not be your shepherd; what is
dying, let it die, let the lost be
lost, and let the survivors de-
vour one another." I took my 10
staff "Goodwill" and broke it—
so as to annul the safeguard I
had made for them with all the
nations. The day it was broken, 11
the hucksters who had hired me
knew this was by order of the
Eternal. I said to them, "If 12
you think it right, give me my
wages; but if not—never mind."
So they paid out for my wages
thirty half-crowns. The Eter- 13
nal said to me, "Put it into the
treasury, that splendid sum with
which they paid you off!" Then
I took the thirty half-crowns
and put them into the house of
the Eternal, into the treasury,
and broke my other staff 14
"Union," so as to annul the
brotherly tie between Judah and
Israel. But the Eternal said to 15
me, "Take the implements of a
shepherd once more—of a
worthless shepherd; for I am 16
setting a shepherd over the
land who will not look after
what is missing, who will not
look out for what is scattered or
heal what is hurt; he will not
cherish the sound sheep, but eat
up the flesh of the fat sheep and
devour their very legs.
- Woe betide that worthless shep- 17
herd of mine,
who leaves the flock to itself!
May the sword strike his arm
and his right eye!
May his arm be withered,
and his right eye blinded!
Up, sword, against my shep- 13
herd,
against my high-priest! 7
('tis a summons from the Lord
of hosts)
I will strike the shepherd,
till the sheep are scattered,
even against the little ones I
turn my hand.

8 For all over the land,
the Lord of hosts declares,
two-thirds shall perish,
but one-third shall be left,
9 and this third I will pass
through fire,
smelting them like silver,
testing them like gold,
till they call to me,
and then I listen;
I will say, "They are my people";
they shall cry, "The Eternal, my
God!" "

* * *

12 The oracle of the Eternal's
word on Israel, an oracle of the
Eternal who stretched out the
heavens and founded the earth
and formed the spirit of man
within him.

2 "I will make Jerusalem a cup
that sends the nations reeling
away from it. Jerusalem shall

3 be besieged, but on that day I
will make Jerusalem an awk-
ward boulder for the nations to
lift; any who shoulder it shall
hurt themselves—yes, and all
the nations shall be gathered to

4 attack it. On that day, the
Eternal declares, I will strike
panic into all the horses and
frenzy into all their riders; as for
the house of Judah, I will open
its eyes, but I will strike every

5 horse of the nations blind. Then
shall the clans of Judah say to
themselves, 'The strength of the
dwellers in Jerusalem lies in the

6 Lord of hosts, their God.' On
that day I will make the clans
of Judah like a blazing pan in a
forest, or like a fiery torch
among sheaves; they shall con-
sume all the surrounding na-
tions, to right and to left of
them, but Jerusalem shall still

7 remain on its own site. The
Eternal will give the victory
first to the tents of Judah, so
that the fame of David's house

and the fame of the dwellers in
Jerusalem may not be exalted
over Judah. On that day shall 8
the Eternal protect the dwellers
in Jerusalem; even the lame
among them on that day shall
be like David himself, and
David's house shall be like God
himself, like the angel of the
Eternal who is their leader. On 9
that day I will set myself to
destroy all the nations that
attack Jerusalem, but I will 10
pour out a spirit of yearning
and entreaty upon David's
house and the dwellers in Jeru-
salem; they shall look at him
whom they stabbed and lament
for him bitterly, as a man la-
ments for his only son; bitter
shall be their grief for him, as
bitter as a man's grief for his
first-born child. On that day 11
the lamenting in Jerusalem shall
be as mournful as the lamenting
for Hadadrimmon in the valley
of Megiddo; the land shall 12
lament, each family by itself,
the family of David's house
apart and their wives apart, the
family of Nathan's house apart
and their wives apart, the 13
family of Levi's house apart and
their wives apart, the family of
the Shimeites apart and their
wives apart, and all the other 14
families who are left, each apart
and their wives apart. On that 15
day a fountain shall be opened
for David's house and the
dwellers in Jerusalem, to cleanse
them from sin and impurity.
And on that day (the Lord of 2
hosts declares), I will wipe out
the names of idols from the land,
till they are no more remem-
bered; I will expel the prophets
and the spirit of impurity from
the land." (If anyone still 3
prophesies, then his father and
the mother who bore him shall

- tell him, "You must die, for in the name of the Eternal you are speaking lies"; whereupon his father and the mother who bore him shall stab him as he
- 4 prophesies.) On that day every prophet shall be ashamed of his vision as he prophesies; he will not wear the leather mantle
- 5 and deceive people; he will say, "I am no prophet, I am a peasant, the land has been my business from my youth."
- 6 When he is asked, "Then what are these scars on your hands?" he will answer, "I got these in my harlot's house."
- * * *
- 14 "Now comes a day for the Eternal, when men shall share your spoil in your very midst;
- 2 for I will gather all nations to battle against Jerusalem, and the city shall be captured, the houses rifled, and the women ravished; half of the citizens must go into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be torn
- 3 out of the city." Then the Eternal will sally forth to fight against these nations, as once he fought upon the day of battle. On that day he shall set
- 4 his feet on the mount of Olives (which fronts Jerusalem on the east), and the mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, by a huge gorge, till half of the mountain slides northward and half southward;
- 5a the valley of Hinnom shall be stopped up, blocked as far as Azel [[and you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the reign of Uzziah king of Judah]],
- 8 and on that day fresh water shall flow out from Jerusalem, half to the sea on the east and half to the sea on the west, flowing on through summer
- 5b and winter alike. The Eternal
- your God arrives, with all his holy angels. It will be one long 6 day then, neither cold nor hot nor frosty, a day of days [[the 7 Eternal knows it]], not a day and a night but light at eventide. Then shall the Eternal be 9 king over all the earth, the Eternal on that day shall be the one God, and his worship the one worship. The whole land 10 shall be turned into a plain, from Geba to Rimmon on the south of Jerusalem, but Jerusalem shall sit high upon her site, inhabited from the Gate of Benjamin up to the corner Gate [[where the old Gate stood]], and from the tower of Hananel as far as the king's winepress; Jerusalem shall dwell secure, 11 there shall be no more curse of destruction. As for all the 12 nations that made war upon Jerusalem, this is the plague with which the Eternal will strike them; he will make their flesh rot away while they are standing on their feet, their eyes shall rot in their sockets, and their tongue shall rot within their mouth. And so shall be 15 the plague that falls upon the horses, the mules, the camels, the asses, and all the cattle in all their camps, a plague exactly like this. And on that day a 13 terrible panic from the Eternal shall fall on them, every man seizing his neighbour and raising his hand against his neighbour [[even Judah shall fight against 14 Jerusalem]], and the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be heaped together, gold and silver and garments in rich profusion. Then the survivors of 16 all the nations that marched against Jerusalem shall march up, year after year, to worship the King, the Lord of hosts,

- to hold the festival of booths.
- 17 If any race on earth will not march up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, no rain shall fall upon that race;
- 18 and if the race of Egypt will not march up and present themselves, then they shall be struck by the plague that the Eternal
- 19 sends on all the nations. Such shall be the punishment for Egypt and for all the nations that do not go up to hold the
- 20 festival of booths. On that day the very bells on the horses shall be inscribed with "Sacred to the Eternal"; the very pots in the house of the Eternal shall be as sacred as the bowls in front of the altar; indeed, every pot 21 in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be sacred to the Lord of hosts, so that those who sacrifice shall all go and take them to cook the sacrificial flesh. And on that day there shall be no huckster any longer in the house of the Lord of hosts.

MALACHI

- 1 The oracle of the Eternal's word to Israel, brought by his messenger.
- 2 I have loved you indeed, says the Eternal; yet you ask, "How hast thou loved us?" "Thus," the Eternal answers; "is not Esau the brother of Jacob, and yet I have loved Jacob and I have hated Esau, laying his mountain ranges waste and leaving his heritage to the jackals of the desert. Edom may say, 'We are crushed, but we will rebuild the ruins.' The Lord of hosts declares: They may build, but I will break, till they are called 'The Criminal Land,' a folk with whom the Eternal is for ever furious. Your own eyes shall see that, and you shall cry, 'All hail to the Eternal, far beyond the borders of Israel!'"
- 3 I the Eternal never change, but you are the sons of Jacob the cheater still; ever since the days of your fathers you have swerved from my laws and failed to keep them. Come back to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will come back to you. 'How do we need to come back,' you ask? Well, can a man cheat God? And yet you are cheating me. 'How have we cheated thee,' you ask? By your tithes and offerings. You lie under my curse for cheating me, the whole of your nation.
- 10 If you would enjoy ample rations in my House, then pay all your tithes into the treasury, and see what I will do, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not then open the very sluices of heaven to pour a blessing down for you, a harvest more than enough; I will stop the locust from spoiling your crops, and your vines shall not miscarry (the Lord of hosts declares); all nations shall call you happy, the Lord of hosts declares, for you shall be a land of delight.
- A son should honour his father, and a servant should reverence his lord. Now, if I am a father, where is my honour? If I am a Lord, where is my reverence? O priests, you slight me, says the Lord of hosts. 'How have we slighted thee,' you ask? By putting defiled food upon my altar. 'But how have we defiled it?' By thinking that the table of the Eternal may be despised, bringing a blind brute to be sacrificed and saying, 'No matter!'—bringing a lame or sickly brute and saying, 'No matter!' Just take the beast to your governor and see if he will accept it, see if he will be delighted, says the Lord of hosts! Try to pacify God and win his favour? How can he favour any one of you, says the Lord of hosts, when you offer him such sacrifices? Will no one close the temple-doors, to keep you from kindling useless fires upon my altar? I take no delight in you, the Lord of hosts declares, I will accept no offering you make; for while my name is being honoured among pagans from sunrise to sunset and a pure offering burned in honour of my name on every sacred spot (for among pagans my name is being honoured, says the Lord of hosts), you are dishonouring it. For you the table of the Eternal is defiled

and its food is no matter; you
 13 say, 'What a weariness it all is!' and you sniff at it, says the Lord of hosts! You bring blind brutes and lame and sickly—you actually bring that for an offering! Am I to accept that from you, says the Lord of
 14 hosts? A curse upon the cheat, who, with a male beast in his flock, vows that, and then slays for the Eternal some blemished animal! I am a great King, the Lord of hosts declares, and among pagans my name is honoured.

2 Now for you priests, here is
 2 my charge. If you will not listen and lay to heart my order to honour my name, says the Lord of hosts, then I will send my curse upon you and curse your blessings—aye and I have already cursed them, for you are not laying my order to
 3 heart. I will disable your arms and spread dung over your faces and banish you from my
 4 presence; then shall you learn that I sent you this charge. For my compact was made with the priest of Levi, says the Lord of
 5 hosts; my compact was with him, life and peace I gave him, aye and reverence—he did revere me, he did stand in awe of
 6 me. True instruction came from his mouth and no wrong issued from his lips; in peace and honesty he lived close to me, and he turned many away
 7 from evil. For the lips of a priest ought to treasure wisdom, and men should seek direction from his words, since he is the spokesman of the Lord of
 8 hosts. But you have swerved aside, you have done harm to many by your directions, you have violated the Levi-compact, says the Lord of hosts, and so

I have made all the people 9 despise and degrade you, because you would not keep to my way nor heed me in your instructions.

Have we not all one Father? 10 has not one God made us? Then why do we break faith with one another, every man with his fellow, by dishonouring our time-honoured troth? [[Judah 11 has broken faith, and an abominable crime has been committed in Jerusalem, for Judah has desecrated the sanctuary that the Eternal loves, Judah has married women belonging to a foreign god! The man who does 12 this, may the Eternal strip him of his kith and kin, expelling him from the tents of Judah, leaving him none alive to sacrifice for him to the Lord of hosts! And this again you do]] 13 You drench the Eternal's altar with your tears, sobbing and groaning because he never heeds your offerings, because he will accept no gift from you. You ask, Why? It is because the 14 Eternal was a witness at your marriage in youth to the wife with whom you have now broken faith—though she is your own mate and lawful wife. Not one of you has any trace of 15 moral sense. Not one desires to have children from God. Take heed to yourselves, and let none prove unfaithful to the wife of his youth, for I detest divorce 16 and cruelty to a wife, the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, declares. Take heed then to yourselves, never be faithless.

You have wearied the Eternal 17 with your talk. 'How have we wearied him,' you ask? By saying, 'An evil-doer is approved by the Eternal.' Or, 'Where is the God of Justice?'

3 Lo, I send my Envoy to clear the way for me, and the Lord for whom you long will come suddenly to his temple [[that Envoy of the Compact whom you desire; he is coming—the
 2 Lord of hosts declares]]. But who can face the day of his arrival, who can stand when he appears? For he is like the fire of smelters and the acid used
 3 by fullers; he will sit down to smelt and purge, purging the sons of Levi and refining them like silver and gold, until he finds them men who will bring
 4 honest sacrifices. Then shall the sacrifices of Judah and Jerusalem be welcome to the Eternal as they were in the days
 5 of old, in years gone by. I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be a prompt witness against sorcerers and adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud widows and orphans and labourers of their wages, against those who wrong a foreigner, having no fear of me, the Lord of hosts declares.
 13 Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord of hosts. 'How have we spoken
 14 against thee,' you ask? You have said, 'It is useless to serve God,' and 'What gain is it to do his bidding, to walk in penitent garb before the Lord of hosts?
 15 It is the worldly, we find, who are well off; evildoers prosper, they dare God—and they
 16 escape!' So indeed they mut-

tered. But meanwhile those who worshipped the Eternal talked to each other, and the Eternal heeded them and heard them; before him lies a record of his worshippers who adhere to him. "And I will claim 17 them," the Lord of hosts declares, "as my own prized possession, on the day when I take action; I will spare them, as a man spares the son who works in his service. Then once 18 more shall you see the difference between good and bad, between him who serves God and him who does not serve him. For 4 the Day is coming, burning like an oven; worldly men and evildoers shall be straw then, and the Day to come (the Lord of hosts declares) shall set them all ablaze, leaving them neither root nor branch. But for you, 2 my worshippers, the saving Sun shall rise with healing in his rays, and you shall leap like calves freed from the pen, and 3 crush down evil men like ashes underfoot, on the day when I take action," the Lord of hosts declares.

"Remember the law of my 4 servant Moses, the rules and regulations I gave him at Horeb as commands for all Israel.

Before the great and dreadful 5 day of the Eternal dawns, I send you the prophet Elijah; he shall 6 reconcile fathers to sons and sons to fathers, lest I come to strike the land down with a curse."